

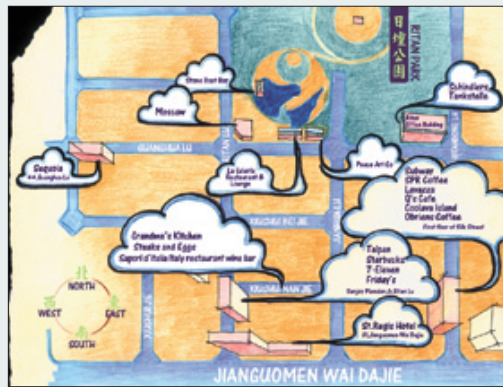


Mother of dance a shocker
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Israeli film's first lady lands

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Traipse around the Sun Temple

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Days of lords and ladies

Knight errantry has led 150 pieces from the Madrid Royal Armoury's extensive collection to Asian show-rooms for the first time. The collection, exhibited in the Palace Museum, is drawn from all over Europe and represents the evolution of art in the West.

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Photo provided by SEACEX

Human lab rats put their health to test

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National Grand Theater debuts

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Cafe takes Starbucks' forbidden place

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Homestay service comes to town

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Lower one-way ticket expected for subway

By Huang Daohen

Beijing's subway fare system is expected to introduce a two-yuan one-way ticket (about US\$0.25) in response to a public hearing, Wednesday.

The public hearing, held by the municipal transportation administration bureau, was to discuss the possibility of reducing subway fares in a bid to encourage more people to take public transport.

Twenty five representatives took part in the hearing, including government officials, transport experts and members of the public. Local residents also applied to watch.

There are two proposals. The first is to lower the price of a one-way ticket to two yuan, and the other is to adopt a flexible pricing scheme, ranging from two to four yuan according to the distance traveled.

Twenty one representatives voted on the first option during Wednesday's hearing.

The preferred first option will cut prices by a third and cost the city 1 billion yuan (US\$133 million) a year, Zhang Wanheng, from the Beijing municipal development and reform commission, said. However, it will benefit 80 percent of the city's public transportation passengers.

"The new prices are designed

to get people out of private cars and onto public transportation," he said, adding that it would ease current traffic.

The first proposal was well received by the public. "News of a price reduction is great after constantly hearing about rising food and housing costs. I just hope it is a long-term policy and not temporary," a local resident surnamed Li was quoted by China Daily as saying.

No foreign delegations for CPC national congress

By Huang Daohen

The CPC's 17th national congress will not invite foreign political party representatives, in accordance with tradition, a senior official with the Communist Party of China (CPC) said Tuesday.

The CPC invited delegations from as many as 50 foreign political parties in 1956 when the eighth national congress was held. No foreign political party delegations have been invited since, Zhang Zhijun, deputy head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, said.

The Party will become more active in diplomacy after the 17th national congress, scheduled for October 15, Zhang said during a press conference organized by the State Council Information Office, Tuesday.

As for the requests of overseas counterparts, Zhang said, the CPC promised to share information on the upcoming Party congress with them soon after its conclusion.

The Foreign Ministry might be the symbol of Chinese diplomacy, but the CPC's International Department plays an equally important role on the global diplomatic stage.

The Party is becoming more active in developing relations with overseas political parties and has forged relations with as many as 400 parties or organizations in 160 countries and regions around the world, Zhang said.

"Those parties include communist or socialist parties, as well as right-wing or moderate organizations, and some are in countries that do not have diplomatic relations with China," he said.

Zhang stressed that the CPC always insists on not taking into account differences in ideologies or political systems in party diplomacy, and each should strive to establish and develop exchanges and cooperation with foreign parties.

Referring to China's failing to develop direct ties with major US political parties, Zhang said the CPC should not be blamed.

He noted that the CPC always handles relations with American political parties with an open mind and is willing to establish exchanges and promote ties with the US political parties, based on CPC's four basic principles for party relations.

Sparkles for National Day



Tian'anmen Square is decorated with flowers and colorful lights for the coming National Day vacation.

CFP Photo

Talent shows banned in prime time

By Huang Daohen

Starting October 1, no "bad and vulgar" broadcast contests with public participation will be broadcast on any provincial-level satellite TV channels during prime time from 7:30 to 10:30pm, a spokesman for the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) announced.

No shows will be allowed which feature voting via cell phones, the Internet or regular telephones, the rule states.

SARFT issued the notice with an aim to stem the tide of vulgar talent shows that have been so detrimental to national morality in recent months.

Last month, The First Heart-

throb, a men's talent show aired by the Chongqing TV, was banned by SARFT for its vulgar content and poor taste.

"There are too many of these talent shows popping up in recent years," a SARFT official Jin Wenxiong was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying. "With these stricter rules and higher standards, inferior talent shows and contests will be unable to be staged," Jin said.

The notice stipulates what sort of talent shows can be broadcast. It prescribes a comprehensive pre-screening process for program content, length, judges, hosts and special guests. "Judges and special guests must be authoritative and professional, and must be

acknowledged within their field," the new rule said.

The new regulations allow only the last episode of the final stage of any competition to be a live broadcast. Additionally, programs are prohibited from using dirty tricks to mislead voters in the studio audience.

After the release of the regulations, several TV stations voiced support for SARFT's decision.

Since the Super Girl competition, a Chinese version of American Idol, created miracles for the Hunan TV Station in 2005, many local TV stations have followed suit with attempts to hold talent shows and win audiences in the last two years.

798 Art Zone to double in size

By Jiang Xubo

The 798 Art Zone will double in size, chief of the Office for Beijing Art Zone Administration and Development said on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the former factory.

The 798 Art Zone, now home to several hundred art workshops and studios, only covers about half the factory's actual area, which leaves great space for further expansion. The zone's governing body will set up an investment company and raise funds for the expansion, Chen

Yongli, the chief, said, without elaborating when and how.

The 798 factory, a branch of a former electronic components factory, was opened in 1957 with approval from former premier Zhou Enlai.

Robert Bernell, an American art publisher and collector who created the well-known English website chinese-art.com, rented a cafeteria from the factory's canteen for Muslim workers as his office in early 2002, witnessing the art zone's first art-linked presence.

More and more artists, designers,

publishers and performers, drawn in by the great spaces and low rents, followed Bernell and turned vacant workshops into 350 stylish art studios with an annual income of 30 million yuan.

"The rental contracts expired in 2005, and we initially planned to demolish the old buildings, making way for new, standard workshops. However, the creative industry has attached greater value to the district and 798 Art Zone has developed into the capital's show window to the world," Chen said.

5-year plan to protect environment

China's State Council has approved, in principle, a five-year environmental protection plan that sets out guidelines, major tasks and measures for the government to tackle pollution.

The plan, approved during an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, Wednesday, puts "pollution control and prevention" as its focus with the aim of achieving environmental protection targets set by the government last year.

The government set goals in its five-year plan to reduce energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by 20 percent and major pollutant discharges by ten percent in the 11th five-year plan period ending 2010.

"China is suffering from increasing conflicts between economic and social development and constraints in resources and energy," the State Council said in a circular.

The tasks laid out include:

- Accelerating economic restructuring to create an industrial system that will aid resource conservation and environmental protection, along with the control of inappropriate development activities.

- Techniques, facilities and backwards production measures that lead to too much waste of resources and serious pollution must be eliminated," the circular said.

- Improving supervision, management and law enforcement of pollution.

- Advancing environmental science and technology through innovation to improve environmental protection capability.

- Enhancing cooperation between government departments and local governments to better resolve trans-regional environmental problems.

- Reinforcing environment education to enhance public awareness of ecosystem protection.

"A mechanism should be established to encourage government, enterprises, and non-governmental forces to invest in pollution control projects," the circular said.

China's environmental watchdog said at the beginning of this year that the country failed to reach its pollution control goals last year because the economy grew faster than expected.

(Xinhua)

Human lab rats put their health to test

By Chu Meng

When it comes to making a living as a lab rat, no one can guarantee safety.

Thousands of people in the capital have taken up the profession, traveling from hospital to hospital to try pills they don't need for ailments they don't have.

Their recompense is hundreds to thousands of yuan in laboratory payments for each test program participated in, the *Beijing News* reported.

A lab worker who refused to disclose his name said that safety in human testers is 90 percent guaranteed because all medicines first

go through extensive animal and toxicity tests.

The danger comes from the cocktail of drugs the testers expose themselves to by participating in multiple programs.

Zhang Ke, 19, is a college student who tests medicine for extra money. His elbow is decorated by dozens of unhealed puncture wounds from various injections.

"I have tested new drugs for a year and a half now. Recently, I've been feeling weak and trembling for no reason in particular. I joke that I'm just a lab rat. As a full time student, it's the only thing I can do to make some extra

money," he said.

Zhang comes from the largest pool of ideal testers: healthy university students.

An official from an Anhui Province watchdog group said university students, medical staff and the unemployed are the most desired testers. According to the National Statistics Bureau, as many as 800 new drugs enter the market every year, and all are required to go through human testing.

To meet increased needs, five or six underground agencies have formed to monopolize human test channels claiming 20 percent of the tester's payment in an "agent

fee." Without going through the groups, it's impossible to earn money as a tester.

Gong Yongjun, an attorney from the Nanjing Jiankang Law Firm, said "the regulations and supervisions from health watchdog groups remain full of many holes."

"Concerning holes in our laws and regulations, we are only empowered to scrutinize the qualifications of medical organizations and grant certificates for production of new drugs. Supervision is a job for the Ministry of Health," an anonymous official from the State Food and Drug Administration, said.

Shanghai opens wildlife reserve, blocks poachers

By Huang Daohen

Shanghai's first wildlife reserve opened Tuesday on the east shore of Nanhui District. The reserve is the first area of Shanghai totally closed to hunting.

Anyone who violates the provisions of this reserve, for instance, hunting or trapping its wildlife, could be detained or arrested and any unlawful income confiscated, Cai Youming, vice director of the Shanghai Greenery Administrative Bureau, said.

Poaching has boomed in recent years due to the area's plentiful wildlife population.

Statistics from the Nanhui District Wild Animal Protection Station showed that, in 30 raids launched by the station last year, it seized 2,860 birds and 410 kilograms of frogs and other edible species.

However, officials could only confiscate illegal income and issue warnings due to a legal gray area, so many poachers were repeat offenders.

Now, with the help of the Wild Animal Conservation Law, anyone who hunts within a wildlife reserve zone will be fined and may face criminal charges if they take more than 50 frogs and birds.

"Establishing a reserve which bans hunting is an important measure for wildlife protection and empowers us to crack down on poaching," Cai said to local media.

The reserve, named Nanhui Dongtan, is located between the East China Sea and the South of Hangzhou Bay. It has a total area of 122.5 square kilometers and occupies 17.8 percent of Nanhui District.

Aside from rich wetland resources, the reserve is a vital stop-over for south-bound migratory birds. Statistics from the reserve show as many as 190 different species of wild fowl have been sighted in the reserve, including the white crane, Chinese egret and little stints, which were sighted in Shanghai for the first time.

In addition, its distribution of reptiles and amphibians, including the China toad and several rare species of snakes, is at the highest levels in Shanghai.

Brief news

Food licenses revoked

The government has canceled as many as 620 licenses from 564 food makers in a campaign to improve food safety, according to a statement by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, Tuesday.

Foreign bank assets grow

Total assets of overseas banks in the country have reached US\$133 billion amongst 364 domestic outlets opened in 25 cities as of June, according to a report by the China Banking Regulatory Commission, Saturday.

Students bound for China

The country attracted as many as 162,000 students from 185 countries and regions last year, Cao Guoxing, director of the international cooperation and exchange department of the Ministry of Education said Monday.

(By Jiang Xubo)

'Brutal' drill school shut down

By Jackie Zhang

Dadongfang Drill School, a Chongqing-based boot camp which rose to prominence following a 14-year old boy's second floor leap to escape alleged abuse and beating at the hands of its teachers, has been shut down.

"The teachers in the school beat, scold and deal out corporal punishment. The school has been punished, and its license has been revoked," Wang Xuming, spokesman for the Ministry of Education, said.

Wang said schools like Dadongfang use amoral methods to educate "troubled" students. "Schools must be qualified according to educational department's standards ... Dadongfang has a history of education infractions which have hurt its students, both mentally and physically," he said.

Dadongfang was established last year following approval by the local Bureau of Education in Yubei District, Chongqing. It was initially a training school, but morphed into a drill school.

Late this April, Xiaozhi, 14, one of the school's students, leapt off the second floor of its education building. One month was all he said he could stand of the school's "special education method," and he was willing to do anything to escape.

The first drill school was founded in 1996 by Xu Xiangyang in Jiangsu Province, with the aim of educating students with poor academic performance. Although it was named "Drill School," basic literature and math classes were absent: the only course was physical training. Punishment is a core feature of drill school, and students who make mistakes are beaten or punished.

In addition to Jiangsu Province and Chongqing Municipality, Hunan, Jiangxi and Heilongjiang provinces also have boot camps, which claim to "correct" problems like Internet addiction. Drill schools charge an average of 15,000 to 20,000 yuan per academic seminar.



International folk art fest ushers in Golden Week

Thousands of civilians crowded the street for the opening parade of the Heluo Culture Tourism Festival, which started yesterday to mark World Tourism Day in Luoyang, Henan Province. As many as 550 folk artists from around 12 countries, including Brazil, the US and Greece, will take part in the event, which ushered in this year's Golden Week in the Province.

CFP Photo

Trial performance to test the National Grand Theater

By Han Manman

After five years of construction, China's National Grand Theater finally raised its curtain on Tuesday with its first test performance with one of the nation's most celebrated revolutionary ballets – "The Red Detachment of Women". The test performance will continue through October 13. If the trial period falls short of expectations, the theater will close again for a general overhauling.

The trial show

The Red Detachment of Women ballet will grace the stage of the new opera house, as part of a series of performances in the coming weeks for selected guests.

The 23rd trial performance, from September 25 through October 13, will only take place at the opera house and drama hall, with the concert hall formally opening by year's end. A general fine-tuning will follow the trial show. Theater lovers can attend the opening of the grand performance season at the new theater before the end of the year.

During intermission at the first trial performance, Zhao Ruheng, president of the National Ballet of China, said she felt the performance was quite successful. "It's a dancer's crowning glory to perform in this world-renowned art palace," said Zhao. She did suggest, however, that the theater needed to improve its acoustics.

The first guest audience

The first audience was carefully selected. It included builders of the project and residents who were relocated to make room for the construction.

"I lived right there. Our street was just in front of the western gate of the Great Hall of the People, so it was very easy to recognize," Jiang Xiong, one of the relocated residents said excitedly, pointing out a part of the theater. Nine years ago, his family received the relocation notice. "I was a little unwilling to relocate at that time, however, when I saw this wonderful theater, everything told us to do so," Jiang said. "The whole residential area was demolished in a month. It was so quick," he said. Although they have moved out, his family still comes back every two or three weeks to cut hair in some of the familiar barbershops.

The day was also very unforgettable for Huang Peicheng, who was responsible for the concrete structure of the theater. "This project was the most complicated one I've ever participated in," Huang said. He said he joined the effort in 2001, "I stayed here for over three years. I am so proud when I enter the gate and I feel familiar with everything even the smallest pillar."

Leah Zakss, music project manager of the British Council, was also invited to the first show. "The building is spectacular! We are quite interested in the underground theater. I think it is one of the most perfect architectures in the world," Zakss said when she first came into the building. It reminded her of a structure in northeast England called "The Sage Gateshead." Zakss said that building is full of glass and is a very fluent structure, quite like the national grand theater.

However, Zakss said that she was seated very high up for the trial performance. "My personal suggestion is that I would like to hear the music a little bit louder."

The Grand Theater

Designed by French architect Paul

Inside the theater

Andreu, the theater is located near Beijing's famous Tian'anmen Square and Forbidden City. It is destined to become an important landmark in the capital.

The building rises out of a 35,500-square meter shimmering artificial lake. Its interior consists of an underwater corridor, an olive-shaped hall, a public hall, and three major halls designed for opera, music and drama performances.

Three vast theaters are encased within the "tear drop" outer shell, which is made of titanium and glass. Built at a cost of nearly three billion yuan, the building is surrounded by water and looks as if it has no entrance. With state-of-the-art equipment, its 2,398-seat opera house, 2,019-seat concert hall, and 1,035-seat theater are expected to draw the world's best orchestras, operas and musicals, as well as domestic productions.

The public hall supports the largest arched roof in China. The arch is made of brazilwood, in a deep red hue that appeals to traditional Chinese tastes.

The opera hall, designed for large-scale operas and dance performances, is bathed in gorgeous golden light and represents the most magnificent part of the theater. The stage can be pushed, moved, lifted, lowered or rotated swiftly; and can accommodate sudden changes in lighting.

The music hall is white and solemn. It functions as a performance hall for large symphonies and national music. China's largest pipe organ can be found here; it contains more than 6,500 pipes to accommodate the demands of various music schools.

The drama hall is used for both traditional and modern stage plays. It is decorated in a rich, Chinese style; and the world-class stage can be raised, lowered, and rotated at the same time.

Useful information

After the trial performances, the National Grand Theater will kick off its first international performance season from the end of December this year to March of next year. By then, about 183 plays will have been staged at the country's newly built music building. Of the 183 plays, 30 percent are from other countries and 70 percent are domestic productions. The art troupes performing these plays will come from more than ten countries and regions, including China, Russia, the US, France and Italy.

The theater, takes into account the affordability of ordinary people. Tickets will be sold at various price levels, to allow a broader audience of art lovers to appreciate the performances. Plans also are underway for charity shows.

As for the traffic, if you drive your car, the theater has a large underground parking lot, which holds 1,000 cars. If you take the subway, stop at Tian'anmen Xizhan and take exit C.



Designer Paul Andreu



Theater builder become first audience.
CFP Photos

The designer

Andreu's modern "teardrop" design, which has three theaters encased in a gigantic titanium frame and covered by glass, was selected by the Chinese government from several international and domestic designs in 1998.

Paul Andreu treated the national grand theater like his son. He said no matter how difficult, if a person has but one chance in his lifetime to work on such an architectural marvel, it is worth it. "The recent theater you see is not the final one. We need further improvements and adjustments on some of the details."

The theater has been the subject of much controversy since 2001 since the modern structure somewhat destroyed the venerable style of its surroundings.

Addressing this concern, Andreu said the age-old building has unique value in this traditional city, and must remain. However, the new architecture must be welcomed, as well, and combined with the old.

"The current theater is covered with glass and titanium and surrounded, not only by the greenery and water, but also the red wall. All these elements are designed to correspond with the surrounding architectural styles," Andreu said.

Officials warn of Three Gorges Dam 'catastrophe'

Beijing (AFP) — China's giant Three Gorges Dam project could lead to ecological "catastrophe" without urgent action to prevent further environmental damage, Chinese experts warned in state media.

Environmental problems triggered by the dam are beginning to emerge at the world's largest hydropower project, Xinhua news agency reported late Tuesday. The head of the office in charge of constructing the dam, Wang Xiaofeng, told a conference a plethora of ecological problems sparked by the construction of the dam cannot be ignored.

"We cannot relax our guard

against ecological and environmental security problems brought on by the Three Gorges project," Wang was quoted as saying.

"We absolutely cannot sacrifice our environment in exchange for temporary economic prosperity."

Threats such as landslides, soil erosion, water pollution, conflicts caused by land and water shortages and other ecological damage due to "irrational development" have even been exacerbated, not improved, he warned.

Local government officials around the dam area also told the conference that the water quality in tributaries had suffered and threatened drinking water safety

for residents.

Pollution caused by sedimentation put at risk the drinking water supply to 50,000 residents in one county and led to a proliferation of algae in many local rivers, they said.

Where proponents of the giant hydropower project see increased electricity generation and improved flood control, critics have long warned about damage to the environment, ruin to China's heritage and misery to local residents.

Opponents argue the dam intercepts much of the silt carried along the Yangtze river, with the lack of sediment downstream leading to soil erosion.

Background

By Huang Daohen

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told a cabinet meeting earlier this month that solving environmental problems surrounding the controversial dam project should be a priority for the country.

Minimal environment impact

Though there are risks of catastrophe, a spokesman for the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee said the environmental protection program, launched in 2001, has been implemented and is proceeding smoothly.

To date, the environment in the dam area has been stable, the committee said.

Statistics from the committee show that the government plans to spend 40 billion yuan from 2001 and 2010 to build at least 150 sewage treatment plants and 170 urban garbage disposal centers to prevent water pollution in the dam.

Scientific plants investigation launched

A large-scale scientific investigation into plants in Three Gorges was launched this month, which aims to collect 28,000 specimens in three years.

The investigation marks the largest of its kind in the area and will provide reliable references for the protection of plants.

Surveillance network

China has a powerful watchdog panel to supervise water quality, tremors and climate change and push for environmental protection.

(Xinhua news agency contributes to this report.)

Gov seeks to cut numbers of executions

Beijing (AFP) — Facing criticism for its human rights record, the vice-president of the Supreme People's Court of China said Tuesday his country was trying to reduce the number of death penalty cases.

"It is really difficult right now for people to agree" on which crimes should no longer qualify for the death penalty, Jiang Xingchang said in Washington, during a speech on judicial reform in China.

"An eye for an eye, blood for blood, is still a tradition in China," Jiang said in his speech at the headquarters of the Organization of American States.

The country does not release figures on the number of people executed.

Access to Everest tightened for torch relay

Kathmandu (AFP) — The government has put in place tougher rules on access to the Tibetan side of Mount Everest next year as part of preparations to take the Olympic torch to the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Chinese officials "will not limit expeditions, but they will strictly veto the expedition teams," the head of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, Ang Tsering Sherpa, told AFP.

He said China plans limit the number of different nationalities represented on each climbing team, demand climbers' documents two-and-a-half months before the trip and prohibit substitutions or last-minute additions to an expedition.

Special Olympics torch reaches Hangzhou



The torch relay for the 2007 Special Olympics kicked off Tuesday in Beijing. The torch arrived in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, yesterday.

CFP/Photo

Advertisement

Yanshajinyuan Mall Makes Refined Life for Men

Refinement is having a sense of taste and a lifestyle that reflects wealth and wisdom. A mature man knows how to present himself as attractive and makes other feel he is cultured.

Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall is a shopping paradise for the refined man, offering outstanding, world-famous brands and good service.

Its elegant environment, high-class goods and variety of choices meet the expectations of more and more businessmen.

Men's Suits — The suit is the external reflection of a man's personality, lifestyle and value. A sense of taste

tempered by sensibility is what men's fashion is all about. Current dressing concepts are shifting from hard-line conservative to a more simple "business leisure."

Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall offers many brands of men's suits. CANALI, the top Italian brand, leads in trend and fashion. Classic American Leisure brand GANT features cotton material and pale colors to show gentleness and maturity: a place to find both classic clothes and leisurewear. Golfers can find noble sportswear from labels like BRUIN, JACK NICKLAUS, WOLSEY, le coq sportif and MUNSIN-

GWEAR. If you are planning a gift of garbs for a companion of special character, choose Givenchy. This autumn Givenchy will continue with black as its dominating color.

Italian delicacy and French refinement enable men to be outstanding, and German Windsor, simple and expressive, shows romance and precision. The style is suitable for knowledgeable and aggressive go-getters, and enables you to be perfect both at work and in life.

Apparel — Men need more apparel than a showroom of suits. Leather and watches

reflect status.

The newly-opened Montblanc in Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall is decorated with black and specially-designed lights. It is an atmosphere exclusively for men. All the leather in Montblanc is hand-made from French lamb skin or Italian cow skin. Intricate detail reflects the delicacy and value of the brand.

Successful men always like watches. A delicate watch around the wrist reflects strong internal energy. Since men like machines, the watch is an obvious accessory to show of a man's maturity.

All men enjoy their own time and space, and they will enjoy the high-quality goods in Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall. IWC, Rolex, OMEGA and TUDOR are all available in different styles. You can also find Longines, RADO, TISSOT, MOVADO, TITONI, SEIKO, CASIO and RHYTHM. The watch section in Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall is the best place to buy a watch for yourself or your friends.

Men can also pay attention to fine details. A refined image will help to raise your status. Yanshajinyuan Shopping Mall is the best place for men to buy delicate goods.

New cafe takes Starbucks' forbidden place

By Han Manman

A new coffee shop replaced the controversial Forbidden City Starbucks that was forced out by public protests at the heart of the palace Museum, last week. The new cafe occupies the same spot Starbucks had for seven years.

Featuring wooden tables, wooden chairs and pictures focused on Chinese culture, the Forbidden City Café serves coffee, as well as traditional Chinese beverages like tea.

"We attempted to turn the shop into something of a showcase. After an experimental period and redecorations, we'll apply the same style to other shops in the Forbidden City," Li Wenru, deputy curator of the Forbidden City, said.

"In the future, all shops operating in the Forbidden City will have a uniform style," Li said.

The campaign to close Starbucks earlier this year began when a television anchor made angry comments about the US chain's presence in the heart of China and claimed it trampled on Chinese culture. Thousands of Internet users echoed his view, which sparked the extensive press coverage that finally pushed the chain to withdraw in July.

Deceive or not to deceive



A state-run cafe opened last week in the Forbidden City lot where Starbucks once stood.

IC Photo

Comment

Cafe related to Chinese culture

Unlike the former Starbucks, the Palace Museum is the managerial authority of the cafe. The Forbidden City Café is only part of a store that mainly sells souvenirs to tourists.

We want to provide tourists with a package of products related to the imperial palace and Chinese culture. All the shops and restaurants in the Forbidden City have to be decorated in a similar style.

— Li Wenru, deputy curator of

the Forbidden City

I was deceived

I was used — the Forbidden City deceived me! I was one of the protesters who went after Starbucks for building a cafe in the heart of China. Now, Starbucks leaves and we get the Forbidden City Café. Has anything changed besides the manager?

— Wang Chunfeng, a netizen

New cafe is traditional

They have to have a coffee shop because expats visit there, and they can't survive without it. The parlor is decorated with wooden tables, chairs and cabinets. The walls are strewn with pictures of Chinese cultural elements. The symbolism of the Forbidden City still dominates.

— Li Yun, tourist

Typical swindling

The cafe's interior has a hanging plaque that says it is China's Time-honored Brand. How could the Forbidden City cafe call itself "China's Time-honored Brand"? According to regulations issued by Ministry of Commerce in 2006, it would have to have been created before 1965 and pass down a unique product, skill or service.

Why do they have a plaque? It looks like typical swindling.

— Tong Xuelu, a blogger

Cultural problem

It is a cultural problem. Take the White House for example: the heart of America should not be selling jiaozi or sushi. I hope the new Forbidden City cafe will satisfy most people.

— A blogger

Controversy over rebuilding the Old Summer Palace

By Huang Daohen

The main gate of the Old Summer Palace, Yuanmingyuan, an imperial royal summer resort destroyed in 1860, will be rebuilt next year as part of a reconstruction plan set to include other original buildings in the park.

"The Changchunyan gate project has passed an early review by experts and has gone through all necessary procedures," Zong Tianliang, spokesman and assistant to the director of the Yuanmingyuan Administration, said.

The gate will be rebuilt to match its original appearance, and construction will be completed within one year, Zong said.

The plan and budget is complete, but Zong would not say any more about the project's details.

A number of other rebuilding efforts will follow after the gate, depending on the approval by authorities, Zong said.

Located in west Beijing,



Whether or not to rebuild Yuanmingyuan has always been a controversial topic.

CFP Photo

Yuanmingyuan is regarded as a symbol to remind China of its shameful 19th century history when bullied by European imperialists.

The park today is the ruins left after the British and French troops set fire to it after plunder-

ing innumerable treasures from the royal garden in 1860.

There has long been controversy over whether or not to rebuild. Many fear that rebuilding may be a waste of money, and that construction may destroy its historic value.

Comment

Rebuilding costs money

Yuanmingyuan, as it stands today, is the best material for patriotic education. Rebuilding will not only cost money, but will also obscure an episode in history.

— fan

Olympic Marathon run through

Rebuilding is not the only way available to remind people of history. We could suggest to the government that the Olympic Marathon passes through the ruins of the stadium.

— mopy

Redesigned as a museum

Yuanmingyuan should be redesigned as a museum, not rebuilt as a garden. The exhibition buildings are shabby, the lighting is bad and the scaled-down miniature of the garden is too small to capture its former splendor.

Yuanmingyuan is incredible, both as an amazing history lesson

and as a cultural marvel. It is just as important as the terracotta museum in Xi'an, so look there for some redesign ideas.

— Huaqiao

Another tourist trap

I fear this park will turn into another tacky tourist trap like so many around the country. Did you learn nothing from the disaster that is Badaling? This is like if the Greeks were to reconstruct the Parthenon. It would no longer be a historical site.

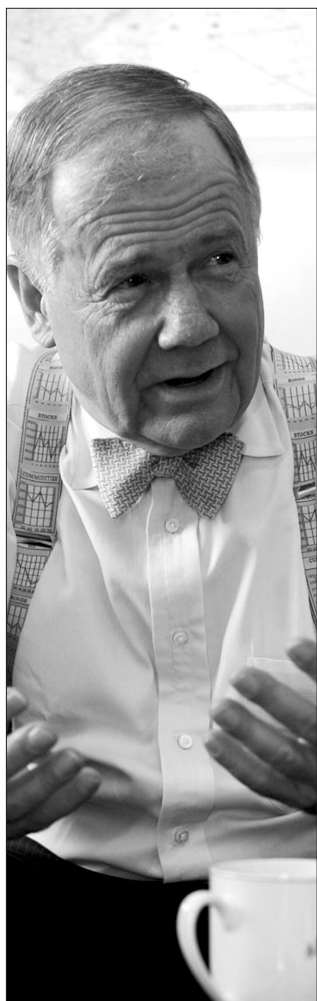
— hutue

Show a video recording

The Chinese people have to get over their "slave mentality" and unwillingness to rise even when given the opportunity.

In my opinion, a video recording of the entire ruined and looted Garden should be taken, and then it should be rebuilt. The recording can be shown at different locations in the Garden.

— NY



Jim Rogers Photo by Brave Lou

China's shares still an investment priority

By Huang Daohen

"China is now on its way to becoming the superpower of the 21st century, and will play the same role that Britain and the US did in the 19th and 20th centuries," stock-market guru Jim Rogers said.

Rogers was here last week as part of a presentation at the 2007 Beijing Investment Festival.

Hold on to China shares

China's stock market is dangerously high, the investor said at a summit during the three-day festival, but tourism, agriculture, water and renewable energy stocks are still worth holding on to.

"From 1999 to the autumn of 2005, and throughout the whole year of 2006, I was buying A shares in China, but in 2007, I switched to H shares," Rogers said.

He said, the price difference between A and H shares in China is big. H share prices are much cheaper than A shares in the

same company.

When asked about his personal investments, Rogers said he would not tell which stocks he had bought, but suggested people put money into the Hong Kong markets since the Chinese government has opened overseas private investments.

He suggested not buying Chinese equities during the bubble periods, and said property in China is getting expensive.

"I will not buy in Shanghai or Beijing at the moment," he said.

Daughter's dowry

Rogers is a conviction investor. He believes the emergence of China will change the world. He is so confident that China's future will skyrocket that, when his daughter was born, he hired a Chinese nanny to ensure that his child learned to speak Chinese from the cradle.

"The most sensible skill that I can offer to somebody born in 2003 is a perfect command of Mandarin," Rogers said.

"My daughter is barely four years old, but she already speaks Chinese like a native," the father smiled, "I just bought her 25 DVDs in Chinese, as they are hard to come by in New York. We do not have a television at home. She only gets to watch Chinese stories on DVD."

Rogers set up a bank account for his daughter recently in Switzerland.

"She knows what's happening with the currency," he joked. More importantly, he noted, she does not hold any stocks, believing that the current phase for equity markets is gray and only talented stock investors can currently make money from shares.

Rogers also admitted that he would use any money earned from the Chinese stock market as a dowry for his daughter, according to the Shanghai Financial News.

Rogers retrospect

Rogers has come a long way

from that poor boy in Alabama. "My grandmother once told me that life is not easy, you should work hard to earn a better living," Rogers said of his success.

By the time he was 37, he had already achieved his childhood dream of having enough money to retire by age 40. This was accomplished through his Quantum Hedge Fund, which he initiated and whose value increased by 4,200 percent within a decade.

Not only did Rogers make enough money to retire at 40, he also went on a three-year, 116-country, 245,000-kilometre world tour in a customized canary yellow Mercedes.

Rogers said he never drinks cola and cycles two hours daily. According to Yang Qing, reporter from Beijing Youth Daily who once interviewed him via emails, Rogers' abundant energy is amazing. During that interview period, she constantly received emails from him at midnight or early in the morning.



Beijing World Park spotlights Chinese Hanfu

Photo by David Wei

Beijing World Park is holding a display on Chinese Hanfu. Interested tourists will be taught Hanfu etiquette and how to dress in it. The event will last until end of the National week holiday.

Israeli film 'First Lady' arrives in Beijing

By Han Manman

Israeli film "First Lady" and renowned author, Gila Almagor, have arrived in Beijing. The author will attend a weeklong retrospective of her work held by the China Film Archive. The retrospective is to mark the 15th anniversary of China-Israel diplomatic relations.

With a still-active movie career spanning half a century, Gila Almagor will have an intimate face-to-face discussion with local movie buffs on Tuesday. "I have been a professional actress for 51 years, but I still get a little nervous when I'm here,"

said Almagor.

Eight of the films shown this time are all representative works of Gila Almagor, made between 1964 and 2006, and will be screened in Beijing until this Sunday. The works include, *The House on Shlush Street*, *Arbinka*, *Sh'Chur*, *The Summer of Aviya*, *Under the Domim Tree* and *Sallah Shabati*. The films are all non-abridged versions with authentic Hebrew.

"I thought very few would understand Hebrew language. However, when I communicated with the students who viewed it, they told me Hebrew pronunciation was very much

like Chinese," Almagor said, adding, "I guess that is the fascination of the film. It made the communication between the two countries easier," she said.

Almagor told the audience that she very much admires Chinese director Zhang Yimou. "If Zhang wanted to shoot a film and needed a short, fat, old woman, who could speak Hebrew, I would gladly join him." Her words made the audience break into laughter.

Gila Almagor has been acclaimed as a symbol of Israeli culture because of the way her work has been credited for

enriching the country's artistic, literary and cinematic scene.

She was born in pre-state Israel in 1939, four months after the death of her father, and grew up in numerous children's institutions. She has been a professional actress since 17. At 25, after studying in New York for two years, she started performing in Israel's top theaters. She has also starred in some 40 movies as well as numerous TV programs and has hosted her own radio show for many years, and is actively involved in voluntary work with children suffering from cancer.



Young Gila Almagor CFP Photo

New Zealand increases its levels of innovation



Deputy Prime Minister Michael Cullen

Photo provided by New Zealand Embassy

By Jackie Zhang

Michael Cullen, deputy prime minister, minister of finance and minister for tertiary education of New Zealand, visited Beijing University Tuesday afternoon to give a speech.

Although the topic of the lecture was about New Zealand's economic reform and transformation, Cullen still had an open and happy chat with the students. When he was asked how often he went to Chinese restaurants in New Zealand, Cullen said he loved Chinese food, especially the spicy flavors.

The speech was given at the New Zealand Center in Beijing University and attracted around 100 students. In his speech, Cullen stressed how New Zealand has increased its levels of innovation.

"In New Zealand, innovation means a lot more than the expression 'hi-tech' brings to mind. It started in the primary industries that affected our economy for our entire modern history. Productivity in our primary industries has been on the rise faster than average for the past 15 years. These are high-tech industries. A simple lamb chop might not look like a high-tech product, but it contains as much science as the latest mobile phone," he said.

Cullen compared New Zealand with China in that New Zealand has innovators, but Kiwi innovators have to work much harder to establish networks which can commercialize these innovations. He said this was an opportunity for New Zealand

and China to work together. "We can build on examples like the New Zealand Wood Centre that opened in Shanghai to deepen New Zealand's penetration into international wood markets, and provide China with access to our competitive edge," he said.

New Zealand currently is also strengthening educational exchange for tertiary education in order to collect more professionals and talents for the country's innovation industry. Cullen said that the key point of their tertiary education reforms and the innovation agenda that they are putting in place is their effort to increase their educational connections.

"This is an important feature of New Zealand's relationship with China, too," he said.

Royal Armoury of Madrid surprises the Forbidden City

By Gan Tian

The exhibition entitled "Art and Chivalry in Spain, the Royal Armoury of Madrid" opened in the Palace Museum in the Forbidden City yesterday, bringing a collection of Madrid's Royal Armoury's masterpieces to Asia for the first time.

Chinese audiences are lucky to be able to see an array of 150 pieces here in Beijing from the Royal Armoury of Madrid's Royal Palace's collection. The collection's weaponry actually comes from a diverse selection of European countries, which were made during the 15th and the 20th centuries. Although they were only commissioned by and sent to the Spanish Royal Household, they represent the evolution of European art during this period.

The exhibition is divided into seven sections, including The Spanish and European cavalry's ideal, The Royal Armoury of Madrid, art and courtesan life during the Renaissance, hunting as a pastime and military training, Weaponry and diplomacy, the splendor of the Baroque period up to the Contemporary Age, and the concept of China throughout the history of the Royal Collections.

Madrid's Royal Armoury collection is comprised of highly artistic and quality weaponry reflecting their way of thinking. It was created for King Philip II of Spain, starting with the armory of his father, Emperor Charles V.

Alvaro Soler, the person responsible for the conservation of the palace, mentioned that the exhibited works are the most important in the world within its genre. "These pieces will give Chinese locals a more comprehensive look at this form of artistic expression and allow them to witness the world of chivalry and nobility as a significant part of the Spanish and European mentality," he said.

Carlos Blasco, Spain's Ambassador to China, mentioned that The Royal Armoury is a collection that can only truly be explained within the context of Spanish history.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Foundation Caja Madrid, is the last large exposition celebrating the Year of Spain in China. As well, 300 percent Spanish Design appeared at the Beijing World Art Museum on Tuesday, displaying 100 chairs, 100 lamps, and 100 posters.



"Armadura ecuestre" displayed at the exhibition.

Photo provided by SEACEX

Holland village and photo competition opens

By Chu Meng

To celebrate the establishment of 35 years of Sino-Dutch diplomatic relations on an ambassadorial level with the people of Beijing, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beijing, and the Consulates-General, will jointly participate in the Beijing Chaoyang District International Tourism and Culture Festival this year, which opens tomorrow.

A genuine Dutch village, including traditional Dutch houses and a real windmill, nine meters in height, will be shipped from the

Netherlands to Beijing. The opening time of the village will be from 9:30am to 10:30pm, September 29 to October 7. During this period, various eye-catching performances will be presented. Visitors can witness demonstrations of Dutch handicraft making, such as glass blowing, blue painting, and taste all kinds of Dutch food.

On September 29, the theme of the village will be "Children's Day." Throughout the day, many interesting games will be organized for the children such as face painting, magic shows and the cheese balance

game, in which children can weigh themselves and find out what cheese of the same weight would look like. At the same time, the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) will organize games to educate youth on protecting nature and wildlife.

Between September 30 and October 7, visitors can watch demonstrations of Dutch handicraft making, such as glass blowing and blue painting, and taste all kinds of Dutch food. For example, people can taste freshly baked Dutch pancakes and the Netherlands famous fish specialty, herring. A special

photo competition will also be organized that is open to everyone. The focus will be on "Finding Holland in China": participants are asked to find elements related to The Netherlands in China. The first prize is real diamonds.

In addition, Dutch companies will be on site to introduce themselves and provide visitors with all kinds of information on the Netherlands. Visitors to the Holland Village will also have the chance to enjoy top of the bill Dutch street theatre such as the Living Statue Rembrandt and the street dance experience of ISH.

Festival features traditional Thai culture

By Huang Daohen

The Royal Thai Embassy of Beijing invites people to enjoy two days Thai culture this weekend from 11am to 9pm during the upcoming Thai Festival 2007 at The Palace Shopping Mall. Everyone is welcome and it's free of charge.

Visitors will enjoy real Thai taste with spicy and authentic Thai cuisine. Fifteen Thai restaurants in Beijing will be serving mouth-watering Thai food inside tents along the street. Thai fruits, such as durians, mangoes, and longans will also be available.

Thai massages always come to mind when one thinks of Thailand. For the festival, several spas in Beijing will perform traditional Thai massage. Visitors will have the chance to relax with an authentic Thai massage.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the festival this year will be the cultural performance by a professional Thai art troupe flown in from Chiang Mai, Thailand, especially for this event. They will present three performances with both traditional and modern style dances.

Thai handcrafted products will also be offered. Articles from Thai companies, such as the Lotus Supermarket and The Red Bull, can also be purchased at promotional prices.

"All visitors will enjoy a day of fun, great food, fantastic performances and will take home a little piece of Thailand," Rathakit Manathat, ambassador of Thailand to China, said during a press conference.

Homestay service comes to town

By Gan Tian

US sophomore Warren Jackman left Wang Xueliang's home Thursday to start his next semester at Texas Tech University. He has lived in Wang's Shijingshan District home for the two-month summer vacation and paid no rent, instead, taught Wang oral English for two hours per day. "Homestay" living is moving from overseas to China.

Jackman said, "It would be great for me to come to see Beijing during the holiday, but my Chinese friends told me it would be difficult to rent an apartment for only two months, and hotels are very expensive. That's when I started looking

into homestay."

Jackman found a note from the Wang family on his campus's BBS. Wang, a first-year student in high school, wanted a language partner. Wang's mother said, "I found that there is a big demand for homestay service in Beijing. Foreigners post their requests on university BBSs, and that's how I met Warren."

Wang's mother went to the airport to pick up Jackman, and found the boy very nice. Her daughter was happy with the first few English lessons, so she agreed to let Jackman use one of the three rooms in her apartment. The room was small, but furnished and included appli-

ances. "They are really nice people who helped me learn more about Beijing and China, and I got to practice teaching English."

Sherry Chapman, a senior student in the London School of Economics, was even luckier. She found a company which provided homestay service in Beijing when she decided to travel here.

She registered at a Chinese website called Panda Aspect (pandaaspect.com) and received immediate feedback. Though she had to pay US\$250 a month for rental, she still thought it was a good opportunity to learn more about China. "There are many Chinese

students living in British homes. I thought the trend should also come to China," she said.

Foreigners seeking homestay are usually aged 20 to 25. Most of them are short-term visitors who serve as English teachers, volunteers and travelers. Gao Hai, owner of Panda Aspect, said that before foreigners step into Chinese homes, they have to fill in a form with some background information.

Chinese locals are responsible to inform the foreigners of their basic requirements. Gao said his company has the job of acting as a mediator and making sure both parties end up satisfied.

Events

Talk: Skulls, Bugs and Gore by German scientist

Mark Benecke is a German forensic scientist who spends his time solving crimes through the study of things everyone else finds disgusting. Maggots, bugs, mites and decomposing corpses are the order of the day for Benecke – and his expertise in these grisly areas has brought him fame in forensic circles worldwide.

Come along for a fascinating, if gruesome, introduction to this field.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Nansanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 5
Tel: 6586 9507

Cricket culture and fighting instruction

Hear a talk about crickets and cricket apartments. Learn about the tools traditionally used for handling crickets, what they eat, how to set up a cricket palace, how crickets fight and learn about the different kinds of crickets and their unique sounds. After the talk, a cricket fighting demonstration will be conducted.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, inside Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2:30pm-4:30pm, October 7

Cost: 60 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (rerouted to mobile)

La Leche League's session on breast-feeding

La Leche League, a breast-feeding support group for mothers in Beijing, provides an informational session on breast-feeding.

Where: Beijing United Family Hospital, 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang

When: 1-3pm, September 28

Cost: Free

Tel: 6433 3962 ext 302

(By He Jianwei)



New look for security guards at Sanlitun

Security guards at Sanlitun bar street put on their new uniforms this week. The new uniform has a lighting function at night.

CFP Photo

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Free resort opens for pets



Dogs and their owners enjoy the pool at Jingrun Pet Resort in Tongzhou.

Photo by Tony Wei

By Chu Meng

Another vacation escape for dogs and cats opened in Tongzhou District Monday, and it's free of charge for the first month.

Jingrun Pet Resort offers spacious indoor and outdoor suites, where your pet can enjoy the daily sun. The whole facility has heating and air-conditioning, as well as outdoor water misters. Snacks are complimentary for all guests and soothing stereo music plays

in the background. All of the suites offer inside sleeping quarters with comfortable sanitized elevated beds. The quarters also have a doggy door that leads to a private outdoor patio equipped with misters so pets can enjoy the garden on sunny autumn days.

It is important for pets to exercise regularly and have human companionship, and this is provided at no extra charge. There are large play yards for daily exer-

cise. For no additional charge during the first month, pets can enjoy air-conditioning for those hot summer days and heat for the chilly winter days. The expert staff monitors dogs' behavior and eating habits.

After the first month, many other professional services are offered. For proper diet, the staff feeds furry loved ones imported pet food twice a day. They also adhere to whatever feeding

instructions owners may have. owners are welcome to bring their own food, but an additional handling fee will be charged. Refrigerators, microwaves and stoves are available.

Where: Industrial Development Area, Tongzhou. You can take No 938 bus to Zhangjiawan Station. The entrance of the development area is next to the bus station

Tel: 6150 5181

20 bicycle rental places open

By Annie Wei

The bicycle rental business has been popular for some time in many European countries as well as New York. Beijing is now trying to catch up by launching a similar program to help alleviate

city traffic problems.

According to the project committee, the Beijing public bicycle rental service, 20 bicycle rental outlets opened this week.

Customers who pay 100 yuan for one year's service and a 400

yuan deposit, become a member, which means he or she can rent a bicycle from any of these locations and return it easily. Members have no need to worry about bike maintenance as long as they don't lose the bike. Short term

rentals, cost five yuan per hour and 20 yuan per day.

Local authorities said this program because it helps reduce heavy traffic, cuts pollution and making it convenient for passengers to transfer from cycles to subways.

Locations of most bicycle rental business spots near subway and houhai

- Exit C, Nanlishi Lu subway station, Line 1
- Hualian Shopping Mall, opposite Exit A, Fuchengmen subway station, Line 2
- Exit B of Gulou subway station, Line 2
- Exit A of Chegongzhuang subway station, Line 2
- Parkson Department store, opposite Exit A, Fuxingmen subway station, the interchange location for Line 1 and 2
- Between Exit B1 and B2 of Xuanwumen subway station, Line 2

- Between Exit B1 and B2 of Hepingmen subway station, Line 2
- Between Exit B1 and B2 of Changchunjie subway station, Line 2
- Exit A of Dawang Lu subway station, Line 1
- Wangfujing, inside the Beijing Hotel's parking lot, Wangfujing subway station, Line 1
- Shatang, the connecting area between Wusi Dajie and Beihyan Dajie

- The Workers' Stadium, 20 meters from the east side of the Workers' Stadium east gate
- Jinxinzai, west of the north gate of Beihai
- North gate of Beihai
- Xidan, passing the hall of building 1, Huayuan Beijie, Xidan
- North gate of Sunshine 100, the connecting area between Guanghua Lu and Xidawang Lu

Traffic situation to get hectic for Golden Week

By Annie Wei

The traffic management bureau, public transportation and traffic execution authorities released their management strategy for the October holiday this week. According to their estimates, there will be 116 million passenger boarding next week in Beijing.

During the holiday, you'll see 16 big-scale events held in town and the suburban areas, such as a lantern festival in Longtanhu Park, a tourism festival in Chaoyang Park,

Hong Kong singer Jacky Zhang's concert, as well as, mountain climbing events.

Subway open for one more hour at night

According to the subway company's estimation, their passenger boardings will be 14.5 million, with a growth rate of seven percent on last year. Therefore, subway lines 1, 2 and Batongxian (the one extending to Tongzhou, east of Beijing for line 1) will be extended for one

additional hour from September 30 to October 7.

At the same time, Qianmen station on line 2 will be closed October 1.

Bus routes for going to the National Theater

This amazing architecture, the National Theater, will have trial shows from Tuesday to October 13. The traffic authority suggests audiences to take buses instead of driving their cars. There are seven very convenient bus routes:

buses 1, 4, 10, 22, 37, 52 and 728. The last bus for route 728 is at 9pm, 10:30pm for bus 37, 11pm for buses 1 and 4 and midnight for buses 10, 22 and 52.

Airport

According to the Capital Airport, September 30 will have the most number of passengers, with estimates set at 180,000, and 1,200 aircrafts coming and going that day. The popular cities are Shanghai, Chengdu, Sanya, Xiamen and Wulumuqi.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I heard that there is a place selling Tibetan carpets. Do you know where I can find the store.

Chris Buckley, a long-term expat in Beijing and Tibet, has a store in the Kempinski Hotel. His second store in Beijing will open at Danshui town in the Shunyi area on October 1. It's a bigger one. For directions, you can check at toranahouse.com/ToranaShunyiStore.html

They have also extended their range of abstract carpets at the Kempinski hotel location.

I want to learn Taichi. I am living in the Season's Park, near Dongzhimen temporarily. Do you know where I can learn Taichi and how much it costs? Also, do they speak English?

There is a Great Taichi studio with classes for expats. They have classes from Monday to Friday with an interpreter. Locations are quite close to where you live, Ritan Park and Chaoyang Park.

For beginners, Taichi 24 is available for beginners and costs 150 yuan a lesson (90 minutes), 20 lessons.

For practitioners with some basic knowledge, Taichi 42 costs 150 Yuan a lesson (90 minutes), 30 lessons, and advanced Chen Style Taichi costs 250 yuan a lesson (90 minutes), 60 lessons.

In each lesson, you will learn the basic principles of Taichi, explanations of each set, including form and meditation, for example, standing like a tree, as well as, gaining knowledge about Taoism.

If interested, please reserve one week in advance.

Tel: 6793 6851

My friends and I want to find a place to play soccer? Do you know where I can book a place like that?

Try the National Olympic Sports Center (1 Anding Lu, Chaoyang, 6491 0453/73), which costs 1,200 yuan for two hours. The field is open to the public from 8pm to 10pm. Other times, it is occupied by professional teams. It's busy on Saturday and Sunday, so you need to book it one week in advance.

Other places include: Tsinghua University, 1,500 yuan for two hours, and that includes a referee. Always book in advance at 6278 5324; Beijing Institute of Clothing Technology, Jia 2, Yinhua Dongjie, Chaoyang, 600 yuan for two hours, 6428 8309; Beijing No 7 Middle School, 400 yuan for two hours, 69, Andelu, Dewai Dajie, Xicheng, 8202 3961.

If you can read Chinese, for more locations, please check bbs.dianluta.com/p-81969.html

(By Wei Ying)

Comment

By Wang Ziyuan



Anna Szafraniec, Poland, athlete

"The course is too fast and not very technological – only the strongest win. There are lots of obstacles and no chances to rest. But still, the course is enjoyable. Most of the world champions came to attend. This game is almost up at the world cup level."



Ramon Martinez, Espanyol, broadcaster

"Everything is going all right, the food and the service; we just need more people (spectators). The game is well-organized and ranks at international standards, Beijing is really ready for the Games."



Ralf Schaneble, Germany, team official

"The course is all right, which gives us a good feeling. I am really impressed by the volunteers and staff, all perfect for the games next year. The only problem right now is that it's impossible for spectators to walk around the course."



Ahmad Nazali Mohamad, coach, Malaysia

"The game is perfect, I'm impressed at how ready Beijing is for the Games. One suggestion is that some volunteers should speak better English."



Nilolay Krutinin, Russian federation, coach

"The course is pretty fast and very challenging; apart from that, everything is very good."

The organization, the food, the volunteers, they're all perfect."

Photos by Wang Ziyuan / Jiang Chao

Difficult course excites mountain bike riders



Chinese rider Liu Ying won gold in the women's event of the International Mountain Bike Invitational Competition.

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

The Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Mountain Bike Invitational Competition took place on Laoshan Hill, Shijingshan, last Saturday. The race included two Olympic cycling events – Men's Cross Country and Women's Cross Country, both of which were held on the Mountain Bike Course of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The committee invited 16 National Federations from different continents, including 19 men's teams and 14 women's teams, to this competition.

The course

The competition was held on forest roads and paths at the Laoshan Cycling Complex (LCC), which is also the MTB competition course for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The course nearly circled the entire circumference of Laoshan Hill's outer rim, in total, 4.492 kilometers a lap. The competition is a mass start event, where, after several laps of the circuit, the first rider to complete the distance is declared the winner.

Liu Ying, the female Chinese gold medalist said the course was very difficult to

finish. After she started the race, she was very tired after just a few minutes, she told journalists, "The course is so difficult. It not only demands all the riders to maintain a consistent speed, but also, to constantly accelerate."

Spanish male bronze medal winner Carlos Coloma Nicolas also mentioned that the course was very hard, especially the last two slopes. He said, "The riders consume a lot of energy in climbing the course, but it is very challenging. I like the course very much."

Security

More than 200 security guards were sent to the Laoshan Bike Clusters. At the Laoshan Velodrome, media work room, media rate-card parking and golf-cart parking areas, personnel screening area, and mixed zone, there are volunteers checking the marks of all reporters' accreditation cards.

If you are bringing in a camera, you will be asked to take it out, take a photo, and show it to the security guards when passing through the security check at the staff entrance. They are making sure there are no concealed weapons passing the check points and entering onto the course.

Medical services

The mountain bike course, being different at every event, athletes may not be used to it and get injured easily. The Good Luck 2007 International Mountain Bike Invitational Competition provided convenient medical services this time.

From last Wednesday to Sunday, medical care was provided at the Haite Hotel, the athletes' residence. There was a medical care team moved into

the Haite Hotel and Athletes Guest House in the Chinese Cycling and Fencing Sports Administration Center.

Medical care in the training and warm-up areas was set up last Thursday. Starting operation Saturday, the service lasts from 9am until 6pm, and there is also a first-aid station near the finishing line of the FOP. Ice cubes were provided during the training and competition time.

Media service

Media service is different from other events as the competition is located in the Laoshan Bike Clusters. There are two media workrooms, one of which is located at the Laoshan Velodrome, and the other on the second floor of the Complex Building just under Laoshan Hill.

Many journalists complained that it was not very convenient for them to get their accreditation cards when they signed up for the event. They had to first go to the Laoshan Velodrome to get the card, and then endure a 15-minute walk to the press conference room in the Complex Building. Though there were shuttle buses frequently

transferring them, it was still a great hassle for the journalists if they wanted to travel during the event.

The "Good Luck Beijing" events forced journalists to pay for Internet use. China Mobile provided wireless WLAN (Wi-Fi) Service at 30 yuan per day. China Netcom also offered broadband service at 15 yuan per hour and 50 yuan per day. 201 Cards of multiple face values were available at China Netcom service stands in case some journalists were in need of telephone use.

China Mobile provided a charge station for the mobile users demonstrating the company's great consideration.

Audio system

As the mountain bike event took place at a large field and the competition usually takes a long time, the music should be of superior quality to keep the spectators' spirits high. Britton Chapman, Panasonic Project Manager, said that the audio system has been equipped with a new LA3 Speaker System and Line Array System. "These two systems can ensure that the music and announcements carry a great distance, as the space here is large and there are many spectators. We don't want visitors at the back unable to hear the music or announcements."

Chinese woman rider wins gold metal

By Jiang Chao

Chinese rider Liu Ying, 22, scooped up gold last Saturday in the women's event of the 2007 International Mountain Bike Invitational Competition held in Laoshan, Shijingshan.

"Many top riders did not come to Beijing this time, and those who did came mainly to familiarize themselves with the conditions and become acquainted with the course," Liu said at the press conference following the game.

Her time was 1:45:54, one

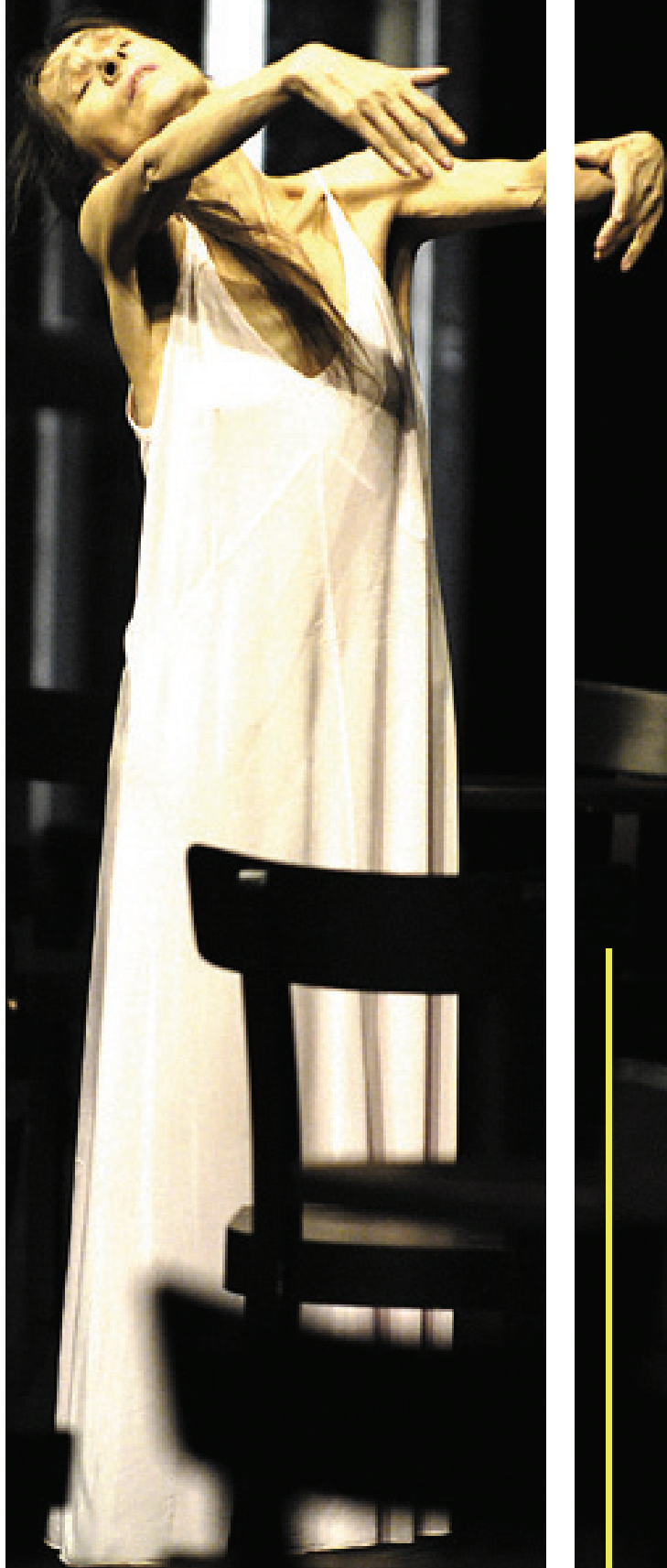
minute and 34 seconds faster than the German runner-up, Sabine Spitz. Lene Byberg from Norway captured the bronze.

When asked about the course, all three medalists thought it was very challenging.

In the men's competition on the same day, Christoph Sauser of Switzerland led all the way to win the title. Bart Brentjens from the Netherlands and Spain's Carlos Nicolas won the silver and bronze respectively.

Of all 47 athletes, only eight riders competed the course.

Dancing acr

Pina Bausch in the *Café Muller*

By Han Manman

Still dressed in black, 67-year-old Pina Bausch, always cool and serious, cracked a smile to enthusiastic applause from her audience. The attendance at her first performance in Beijing was perfect.

Last week, Bausch, with her Wuppertal Dance Theater, presented their first performance at Tianqiao Theater with two of their vintage works created back in 1970.

From the experimental *Café Muller* to the spectacular *The Rite of Spring*, with clay and mud covering the stage, to the actress's translucent

dress which revealed her naked back, Bausch's performance and her "Dance Theater" are sure to evoke a strong response.

"*The Rite of Spring* is very good, but it is hard to think about *Café Muller* when you are at home," an audience member said. "I think that Bausch's work was too hard to understand. Beijing's audience entered a hard time to understand the world through her work, which combines music and dance. During audience interviews, I could not say I understood the performance. I was definitely shocked."

Café Muller

Chairs and tables in disarray, glass frames, revolving doors and vague lighting, this scene from *Café Muller* may not be strange to anyone who has seen the movie *Talk To Her* (2002), directed by Spanish director Pedro Almodovar.

Two older women, one of them Bausch herself, in translucent slips blindly stagger about a stage littered with chairs and tables. Suddenly, a man scampers about knocking the furniture out of their path ... Among the spectators, one male audience member was moved to tears, however, another seemed totally at a loss.

The scene comes from the starting point of the film, and the two primary female characters could possibly represent two kinds of Bausch's audiences – those moved or those totally confused.

In many paragraphs of *Café Muller*, to strengthen the characters' inside movements, players repeat one or a group of actions up to ten times. One female actor slips off her thin cloth and bares her back to the audience and then puts it back on. This action is repeated again and again, the audience becomes restless.

Creating the play in 1978, Bausch based her piece on two women's arias by Henry Purcell. The songs mirror the central theme of *Café Muller*, the pain of love and separation, the grief and despair.

The Rite of Spring

The halftime intermission looks like part of the performance. The curtain is not lowered and the staff is busy cleaning up the askew chairs and tables. They carry onto the stage many boxes of clay. Thus begins *The Rite of Spring*.

The Rite of Spring is obviously influenced by German expressionist dance, which, 30 years ago, established Bausch as one of the most original, controversial and imitated artists in modern dance. Since the its premiere, she has become a byword for dance theatre that anatomizes the suffering, absurdity and passion of the human condition.

However, she doesn't join the performance team this time, but changes into her black cloth again and sits amongst the audience to watch the performance.

On stage, a group of men and women dance bare-footed, dirtying themselves with the clay. With the music of Igor Stravinski in the background, *The Rite of Spring* shows women standing hunched and shuddering, nearly naked, in flimsy beige shifts. They know that one of them will become the sacrificial victim in the religious ritual. The ominous red dress the victim will wear is passed amongst them. They huddle together for comfort, then disintegrate into panic-stricken scurries as destiny bubbles under the surface. When a woman is finally chosen by the male leader, the music briefly unleashes the colossal power of its drums to signify the release of pent-up sexual longings.

There are many versions of the *The Rite of Spring* performed by different ballet groups, but it is said that Bausch's musicianship and dance in this "dirty" version contributes to its reputation as one of the best ever presented.

I dance because I'm sad

For over thirty years, Bausch has peered into the darkness of the human heart, searching for love and tenderness, and finding precious little. The world she puts on stage is full of fractured relationships, cracked identities, and soul-numbing loneliness.

"I dance because I'm sad." The simple words that Bausch used in her confession have become the most-quoted line by her fans.

Jochen Schmidt, the only person in the world that Bausch claims she truly trusts, fully described her in his new book. He says she is obsessive, sensitive, elusive, occasionally infuriating and magnetic. He wrote that Bausch didn't like others asking about her work and private things. It's hard to interview her, and harder to photograph for her. She is very suspicious and sometimes has a feeling that she is being followed. "scared" and "sad" are the frequently mentioned words to describe Bausch. No one knows the reason, but many guess she was once seriously hurt by somebody or something.

Even after arriving in Beijing she refused interviews and didn't allow any journalist to watch her dress rehearsals. The only time her silence was broken was during last month's warm up press conference.

As suggested by her famous comments, "I'm not interested in how people are moved, but what moves them," she said, "I think my work speaks for itself. I always try to speak about all of us, about what we feel, about our same language, about our wishes, our hopes, our desires, our fears, about love, about yes, being human – and how beautiful each person is, and how fragile each person is. And I think all these elements together is what I have to say," she said, cigarette in hand.

Pina Bausch

Pina Bausch Profile

Pina Bausch, born in 1931, is a German dancer, choreographer, actor and director of the Wuppertal Dance Theater. She was born in Wuppertal, Germany, where much of her childhood was spent. Her father was a cafe owner and her mother was a typist. The mystifying, frighteningly erotic relationship between men and women that she constantly in her work. She performed with the New York City Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera House Ballet in New York before founding Tanztheater Wuppertal in 1973.

Mother of Dance Theater

Three months ago, Bausch was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice International Festival of Contemporary Dance held in Venice. She has established a career that taps deeply into the ties of both performers and audiences. She has broken the boundaries between dance theater, and pioneered the Dance Theatre, a new form in theatrical art.

The troupe is composed of nearly 30 dancers from various countries. The dancers are not just dancers, they are actors. Apart from dance, they use various forms of expression in their theater arts: they shout, they improvise scenes. She plays a special role in their performances. Natural substances like water, earth, flowers are brought on stage. However, strong inclinations towards the art of Bausch remain subordinated by the rhythm and the beauty of the body's

Cross borders

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Pina Bausch: "I loved to dance because I was scared to speak."



Dancers in The Rite of Spring

Comment

I divide the people of the world into two groups: those who have seen Bausch's work, and those who have not. She gives Germans renewed confidence. After World War II, Germans could not say proudly that they were German. However now, we can very confidently say, "We are German," which has much to do with Bausch.

— **Michael Kahn-Ackermann, director of the Goethe Institute, China**

It's a shame that we invited Pina Bausch so late. I saw her performance from a video in 1980. That was the first time I experienced dance theater. At that time, I told myself, 'Bausch's way of performing is what I really want.' I was focused on drama and the way Bausch trained her dancers was especially interesting to me. I think that is what Chinese drama lacks.

— **Lin Zhaohua, director of the Beijing People's Art Theatre**

When I first saw the *The Rite of Spring* in 1997, I felt short of breath. The dancers used their bodies to perfection. And *Café Muller* is different by returning to a primitive state.

— **Cao Chengyuan, Chinese choreographer**

I wanted Bausch to tour Beijing in the mid 1980s. In the spring of 2006, I watched Tanztheater Wuppertal's show in Japan, which prompted my decision to invite Bausch to Beijing. Bausch was somehow too avant-garde for Chinese audiences in the 1980s, but I believed is the time now to broaden their vision of dance and theatre art.

— **Zhao Ruheng, president of the National Ballet of China**



Wuppertal Dance Theater's version of The Rite of Spring is said to be the best version ever presented.

Photos by Ye Jin



By He Jianwei

Author Niranjana Bhattarai unveiled the Chinese edition of *Nepal and China* (205pp, Tianjin People's Press, 25 yuan), his new book on the history of Sino-Nepal relations, at the Embassy of Nepal, last Friday.

In the book, Bhattarai explains to general readers how relations have grown. "It covers a period of two thousand years, from when the news of Buddha's birth in Lumbini, Nepal, reached China in 2 BC," he said.

"[It] also aims to address over a hundred million Chinese Buddhists who are living in China," he said. For this purpose, there are some chapters highlighting Buddha and his teachings, how they were introduced to China and developed there.

"These chapters are also expected to draw Chinese Buddhists' attention to Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, and visit there and pay homage to the Lord Buddha," he said.

As president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Chen Haosu visited Nepal. Bhattarai talked with Chen about the contributions made by Chen's father Marshal Chen Yi in formulating the policy of friendship.

Tales of two neighbors

The first comprehensive book about Nepal and China

"The relationship is growing every day. In this context, I thought it essential to write a book, which may provide detailed information about the process of development of our relations to Chinese readers in their own language," Bhattarai said.

The book was translated by four Chinese experts from 2000. "It is the first comprehensive book about the relationship between China and Nepal in Chinese. The 14 chapters span more than 2,000 years, including both the history and contemporary relations," Liu Jian, director of Asia Pacific Institute and one of the translators, said.

"It is a book written with an academic and scholarly attitude, but in vivid language. It also tells of a history we never saw in textbooks. For example, we all know that Prin-

cess Wen Cheng married Songtsan Gampo to improve the relations between the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Tubo tribe in the 7th century, but we didn't know Nepal also sent its princess, Bhrikuti Devi, to the Tubo tribe at the same time," Liu said.

In his concluding remarks, the author mentions that "Nepal regards China as a reliable friend, and China, in turn, admires and appreciates the non-aligned foreign policy of Nepal based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and respects it as a good neighbor."

Bhattarai came to China in 1958 to study Chinese at Beijing University and worked as a councilor at the Embassy of Nepal. When the boundary treaty between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Nepal was signed in 1960, he was the interpreter for Nepal's side.



Niranjana Bhattarai
Photo by Liu Na

Traveler on the road again

By Han Manman

Similar to Jack Kerouac's other books in style, content and philosophy, *Lonesome Traveler* (183pp, Grove Press, US\$13) continues the author's odyssey through the roads, cities and mountains of his deeply-felt universe.

Lonesome is a collection of eight travel essays. Several were published during Kerouac's earlier years while roaming around New York, working on a railroad out West, steaming around the American coasts, working as a fire ranger in the Washington mountains, cruising the Medina of Tangiers with William S Burroughs and taking in the art galleries of Paris.

"I always considered writing as my duty on earth. Also the preaching of universal kindness, which hysterical critics have failed to notice beneath the frenetic activity of my true-story novels about the 'beat' generation. I am actually not 'beat,' but a strange, solitary, crazy, Catholic mystic," he wrote.

The book is best suited for a solitary

read on a relaxing afternoon in the park. There is an intimacy in Kerouac's tone that, at times, makes the reader feel like he is sharing the author's experiences as they happened.

Kerouac's work can be described as a collection of "railroad work, sea work, mysticism, mountain work, lasciviousness, solipsism, self-indulgence, bullfights, drugs, churches, art museums, streets of cities – a mishmash of life as lived by an independent, educated, penniless rake going nowhere."

This month is the 50th anniversary of the publication of *On the Road*, his iconic novel that defined the Beat generation – widely acknowledged to have radically changed American culture somehow.

On the Road shows readers a more intense, more passionate and more closely examined life. Some who've lived it died on the streets. Others refreshed American sensibilities in music, art, fashion or in simply learning to take pleasure in pleasure.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three top-selling design books for *Beijing Today* readers.

Factory Records: The Complete Graphic Album

By Matthew Robertson, 224pp, Chronicle Books, 450 yuan

A creative juggernaut of the post-punk era, Factory Records was the catalyst behind the UK music explosion of the late 70s to 90s. Factory Records is the ultimate and only collection of Factory's complete graphic output, including every single piece produced – extremely rare record sleeves, club flyers and posters gathered for the first time. A must-have for collectors and enthusiasts, Matthew Robertson's meticulous compilation of underground ephemera is poised to introduce a new generation of music and design fans to the creative genius of Factory.

Material ConneXion: The Global Resource of New and Innovative Materials for Architects, Artists and Designers

By George M Beylerian and Andrew Dent, 288pp, Wiley, 540 yuan

The book includes quotes from 54 leading designers, architects, artists and thinkers worldwide, including Wolfgang Joop, Karim Rashid, Peter Marino, Greg Lynn, Gaetano Pesce and Philippe Starck, that reflect upon the role of materials in contemporary design and identify their favorite materials. The book includes an important reference section with a bibliography, glossary of technical terms, and lists of trade show and professional publication web sites.

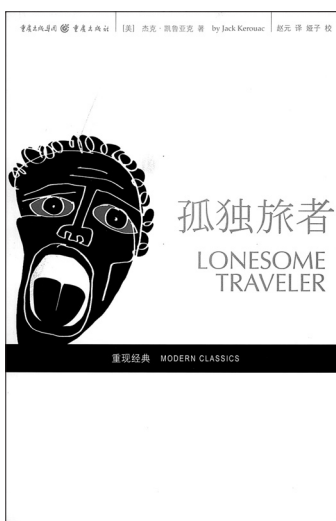
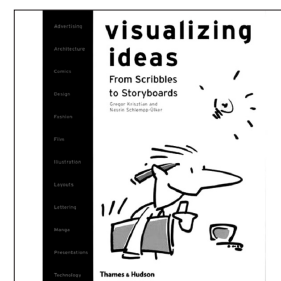
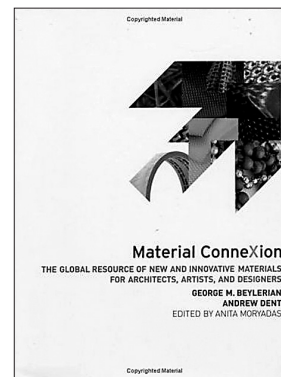


Visualizing Ideas: From Scribbles to Storyboards

By Gregor Krisztian and Nesrin Schlempp-Ulker, 204pp, Thames & Hudson, 255 yuan

Visualize and present your ideas quickly and effectively with the aid of this superbly illustrated book. Gregor Krisztian and Nesrin Schlempp-Ulker explore and explain basic layout techniques, give expert tips and demonstrate useful tricks employed by professionals. An indispensable reference work for all professional designers and students – indeed, for anyone who wishes to present ideas successfully and skillfully.

(By He Jianwei)



Flow Market, the supermarket of your mind

By He Jianwei

"Clean air, 30 yuan a bottle," "Raise awareness of tradition, 25 yuan for 300 milliliters" and "Fair trade, 30 yuan for 170 grams." Bottles, cans and bags now bear these labels.

Danish artist Mads Hagstrom created Flow Market and brought 10,000 of its sample products to Shanghai in June. His initial offerings have spread like wildfire among Chinese citizens thirsty for "mind care."



Challenges of today

In the last century, pursuit of technological and economic progress opened new possibilities in the industrialized world, but also caused many imbalances – especially for the individual, the collective and the environment.

Hagstrom gives shocking examples often ignored in daily life.

Individual challenges

At many fast-food restaurants, a single meal contains more than two times the recommended daily intake of fat, cholesterol, salt and sugar.

Worldwide, more than a billion adults are overweight, and at least 300 million are obese.

Addiction to drugs, alcohol, smoking, sex, gambling or work may be an expression of people's inability to handle human presence and intimacy.

Half of all deaths are linked to diet, tobacco, lack of physical exercise and eating disorders, which affect 70 million individuals worldwide.

In Sweden the cost of stress-related diseases was 80 billion Denmark Kroner (US\$15 billion) in 2001.

Collective challenges

While only 20 percent of the world's population is "Western," that same segment consumes 80 percent of all resources.

As many as 99 percent of American families with children work 47 hours per week, 72 percent work overtime and 56 percent work weekends. The average father spends the same amount of time shopping for groceries as he does looking after his children: 24 minutes a day.

It would cost US\$6 billion to provide basic education for everyone in the world, but world military expenditures in 2001 were \$2.3 billion per day.

Environmental challenges

The total weight of fossil fuels and chemicals used to produce a two-gram computer chip is 630 times the weight of the chip itself.

By 2005, consumers worldwide will have stockpiled approximately 500 million cell phones that are likely to end up in landfills, where they may leak 142 tons of lead.

A comparison of the nutritional content between organic and factory-farmed, conventional vegetables showed organic produce to have higher nutritional value.

The planet loses about one plant species per day.

A study involving 8,200 university field trials showed that farmers growing GMO soybeans use two to five times more weed killer than farmers growing natural varieties.



Selling awareness

Challenges that individually and together bear witness to an unhealthy development of our societies.

As a response, a need for more sustainable growth is rising to the top of the

more holistically. Present imbalances from the 3 dimensions have been addressed and transformed into physical products in the shape of aesthetically designed (empty) packing with humorous and thought awakening labels that the visiting consumers can buy at prices ranging from 10 to 100 yuan in China.

It offers 40 different scarcity goods in 3 product categories, including "individual flow," "collective flow" and "environmental flow."

The product category of "individual flow" offers the products with labels such as, "stress killers," "ups and downs," "addiction liberators," "obesity dissolvers" and "a lack of exercise kills."

The product category of "collective flow" offers the products with labels reading, "off liners," "commercial free-space" and "tolerance."

The product category of "environmental flow" offers the products with the labels like, "organic food," "clean tap water" and "pollution dissolvers."



agenda of individuals, business and nations.

Thus, a new consumer market based on values is expanding rapidly, where the rich consumer increasingly judges products and services on their immaterial values and on level of sustainability.

Flow Market is a shop designed to inspire consumers to think, live and consume

All the 43 labels available in China

face your ugliness
do better than smoking
be brave and love
say please, thanks, sorry
balance the new and the old
leave your desk
save greenery
boundless culture
every day is a Confucius day
communicate
think of others
new zing world
a good 8 hours sleep
work for people
be secure
raise awareness of tradition
renewable energy
symptom removers
pause
balance
stress killers

how to feel yourself
time for others
silence
good vibes
1/4 unconditional love
tolerance
clean air
why do we drink bottled water?
holistic thinking
addiction liberators
organic food
off-liners
pollution dissolver
commercial free space
presence
100% GMO
how to let go
fair trade
spam e-mail killers
comfort eating treats
lack of exercise kills
clean tap water



Fans of the market

Buying encouragement

Liu Lian, a college student in Shanghai, bought three bottles. One is labeled "communicate," the other reads "1/4 unconditional love" and a third, "think about others."

"The first bottle is important for me because I'm not good at communicating with others. I know it's not a good habit, so I need to encourage myself to actively talk with others," Liu said.

She didn't know why she bought the second bottle. "It was an unconscious decision. Maybe I felt I wasn't giving my all to my loved one. I'm wondering how I can love more, and if one-fourth of my love is

enough," she said.

As for the third bottle, she said, if people always thought of others, the world would be a better place.

Luxurious ideas

"With the rapid development of the world, we are losing many precious ideas and valued qualities," Xiong Jue, from Shanghai, said.

When she first went to the shop, she was shocked to see the "empty" bottles. "The bottles were full of wishes and 'pills' to cure modern ailments," she said.

"It made me rethink what kind of life I should lead," she said.



CFP Photo

Enjoy a different lifestyle at THE PLACE



"Lifestyle" mall instead of "shopping" mall

Interview with Meiling Chun, CEO of THE PLACE

Q: Who are THE PLACE's target customers?

A: Due to the location, we want to draw and attract middle class shoppers who appreciate the spacious, comfortable and safe shopping environment. The target age ranges 25 to 50. From the young and trendy urban elites to the more matured business people and families, THE PLACE has a lot to offer. If you look closely, you'll find these people dress smart, look for an enjoyable, yet trendy lifestyle and carry a positive attitude towards life.

Q: Compared with other shopping areas, what makes THE PLACE so unique?

A: THE PLACE is a "lifestyle mall," and we are one of the pioneers who bring trendy concepts to Beijing. The brands here provide customers with everything they need for a new lifestyle – not just for shopping and dining, but also for organizing social gatherings, special events and business

conferences, or things as simple as picking out a book in an English bookstore, enjoying an al fresco lunch or dinner, getting a new hair style or being pampered in a spa. I call these our "soft functions," which is what lets THE PLACE offer a leisurely and creative "lifestyle" – we aren't confined to traditional mall concepts that make a mall.

Q: Can you tell us the criteria for selecting brands at THE PLACE?

A: We welcome uniqueness and aim to create a lifestyle experience in Beijing. We trust our brand mix to cater to the city's trendy, sophisticated class in the CBD area and beyond. There are many "Number One" shops and Beijing or China flagship shops at THE PLACE.

But THE PLACE does not position itself as a luxury mall. We cater to customers who look for mid to mid-to-high-end trendy products. Prices at ZARA, GUESS, adidas heritage and the PUMA concept shop are all very affordable to our target customers. However, we also cater to the needs

of those who are still aspiring for a more "luxurious" taste of life. Our fine jewelry shops and designer dresses are just a few specialty shops for this group.

Q: Does THE PLACE have any plans to welcome the 2008 Beijing Olympics?

A: THE PLACE was officially announced as the Cultural Plaza for Beijing Olympics 2008. We have invested in upgrading our services including preparing all staff with language training, as well as improving the quality of our service with smiles and warm welcomes for our guests, proactively assisting our shoppers in the mall, and providing services for the handicapped. Some of these very basic concepts are often neglected. In addition, we want to improve consumer's shopping behavior and general attitudes. We have invested in commercials hoping to raise the awareness of friendship, caring and helping each other in the spirit of Olympics.

By Gan Tian

A grand plaza, spacious walking street and modern, classical architecture – this pleasurable blend of art and shopping can be enjoyed at THE PLACE located at No 9 Guanghua Lu in Chaoyang District.

THE PLACE leads Beijing's trendy scene, not just with its European-style architecture, but with a collection of chic and unique brands.

Popular Spanish fashion label ZARA and Korean label SJSJ launched their flagship Beijing stores in THE PLACE, and Italian labels like MISS SIXTY, ENERGIE and Fornarina have attracted millions of trendy girls with their flair.

The enormous complex offers two Grade A office towers and tremendous shopping space. Even with all that, THE PLACE has space to spare for special events with a massive out-



door boulevard and a large function hall, as well as two

amazing rooftop gardens at the south and north ends.

The sky screen, Asia's largest, stretches 250 meters over visitors' heads. It was created by Jeremy Railton, the famous stage designer who has an Oscar award and four Emmys to his name.

Where: No 9 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang.
Getting there: Take the Beijing No 1 Subway Line to Yong'anli station, exit north and walk 500 meters along the east side of Dongdanqiao Road to THE PLACE.

Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 6587 1188

Five highlights not to be missed

The sky screen

This is the first sight to check out in the evening. The sky screen is definitely an impressive attraction for any visitor. It is the largest LED screen in Asia, and the longest in the world! If you can't visit the other sky screen in Las Vegas, the one at THE PLACE is a must see – both were designed by stage designer Jeremy Railton of Grammy fame.

ZARA

The only one in Beijing! This shop is located on the west corner of the south corridor, and is the first thing you'll notice there. ZARA has won the hearts of thousands of Chinese shoppers with its affordable prices and up-to-date seasonal designs. Make your selections and have your fittings done here: it's like a fashion supermarket.

Grand Stairs at the Boulevard

"Where shall we meet?" "In front of the Grand Stairs at THE PLACE Boulevard." "Okay, I know that spot."

This is a popular dialogue between local love birds. The Grand Stairs is a landmark meeting point in THE PLACE.

Roof garden

Meiling initially arranged for our interview to be at the 5th floor roof garden in THE PLACE. Unfortunately, it was raining, so we missed the beautiful view up there. "It is very refreshing out there – it feels like you can touch the sky," she said.

The Customers

Take a good look around you. All the customers here are so fashionable. There are pretty girls carrying shopping bags, muscle hunks going to the gym, office ladies carrying files, students reading books ... you will never tire of people watching.

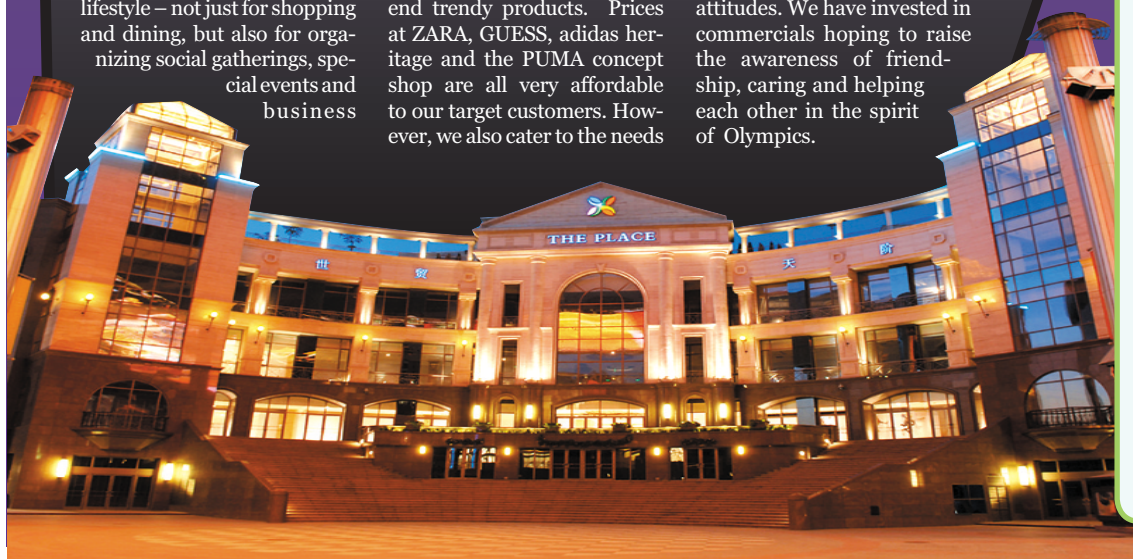
Brands only in THE PLACE

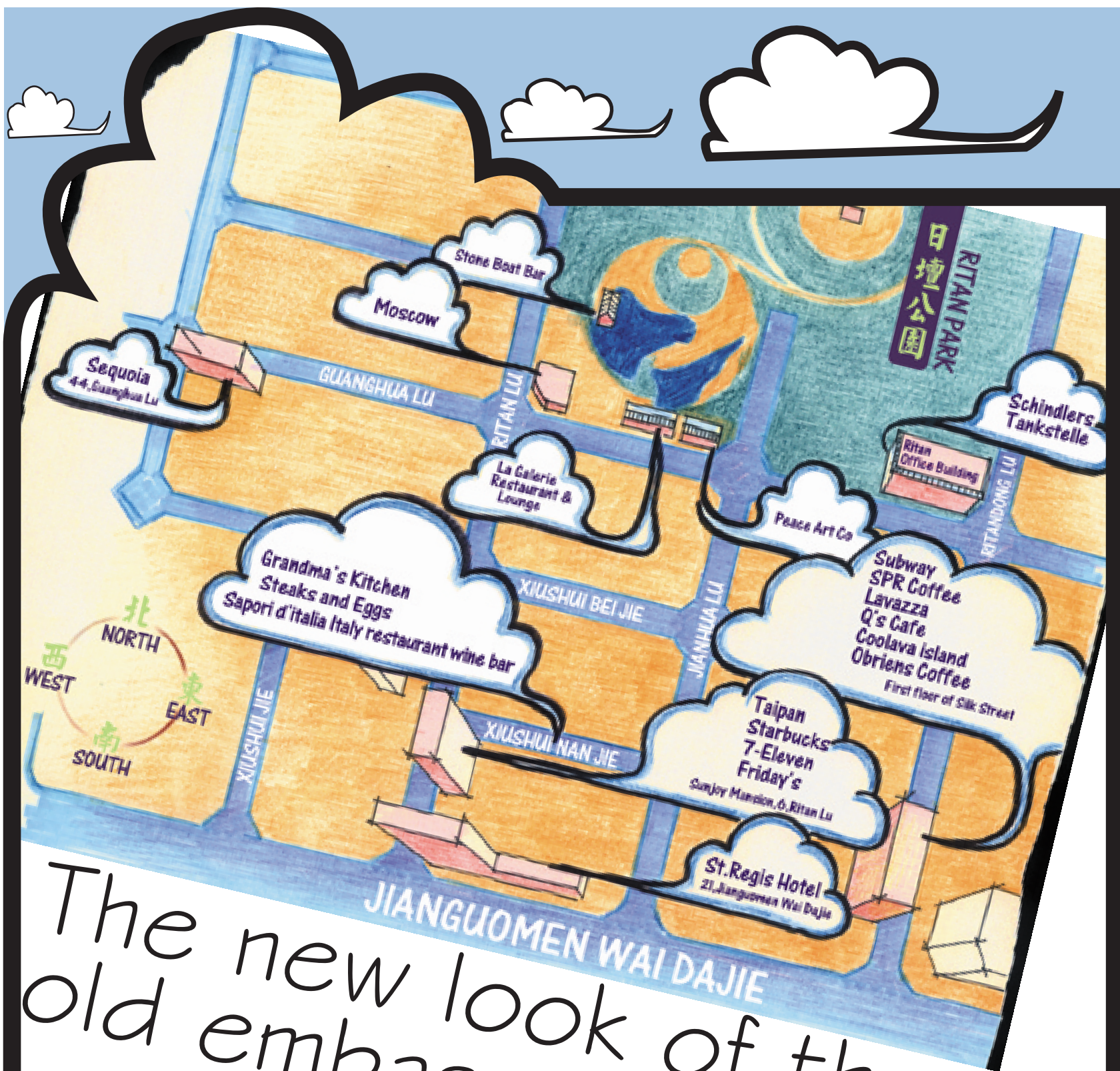
World's first retail:
F1 PIT STOP CAFE

China's first retail shops or flagships:
adidas heritage, California Fitness Yao Ming SPORT, ECOH, FUBU, M.A.C, PUMA, Simon G

Beijing's first retail shops or flagships:
ARTE
BRUMS
Capone's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar, Chatterhouse booktrader, CJW (Cigar, Jazz and Wine), crocs
EIGHT BIRDS HOK-

KAIDO SHABU SHABU, Empire
Ferrari STORE, Folli
Follie Baby
GANT, GOLDEN SPOON TAIWANESE FOOD, GUESS by Marciano
KORRES NATURAL PRODUCTS
Lea Foscati, Okaidi, OMEGA, on and on
PARK SEUNG CHOL HAIR STUDIO, POLHAM, promod
RIMOWA
SYSTEM, SJSJ
Tan's, THANN
Yu kids Island
ZARA





The new look of the old embassy area

By Annie Wei

Ritan Park was built in the sixteenth century. Now it's a beautiful and admission-free park for visitors. Every morning, there are many local senior citizens practicing Taichi, singing traditional songs, playing traditional instruments, dancing and doing morning exercises.

The area of Ritan Park environs, surrounded by embassies, hasn't changed much. How great it is to find such a peaceful and green area in a central location that hasn't been destroyed by greedy real estate developers yet.

But Xiushui (Silk Street) has changed a lot. Comparing it to the new Xiushui shopping mall, I prefer the old one with the big flea-market.

Local customers' opinions about Xiushui say that most of the products are very ordinary, with styles suitable to western tourists. You'll need to spend some time looking carefully for special items but, sometimes, you can find treasures.

The expanding number of tourists every year transforms more places into shopping malls like the Silk Street building. Ritan Office Building, the one at the east of Ritan South Gate, is also popular when shopping for higher quality clothing. Sometimes, you can find your favorite international brands very cheap here. The vendors claim that they sneak the products in from the factories directly. Whether they are genuine or not is not important – what matters is you really like the piece and can buy it at a good price.

The west side of Ritan Park is the wholesale Russian clothing area. I always find it attractive: the fur coats, the Russian fashions and the interesting accents. Too bad the dealers always ignore me simply because I am not a Russian retailer.

However, what really brings me to this area is not practicing Taichi or shopping, but the parties held in the Stone Bone Bar, inside Ritan Park, brunches with friends at Grandma's Kitchen occasionally, or going to a Taipan massage parlor to pamper myself.

Illustration by Wang Bin
Continued on page 17 ...

Coolava, good coffee and great smoothies

By Annie Wei

On the east side of the first floor of Silk Street shopping mall you'll find at least four coffee shops, including SPR, Q's, O'Briens and Coolava Island. All of them feature lovely design and are packed with foreign consumers.

Take Coolava, for example, the first thing that catches your eye is the sporty logo design in colors red, green and orange. Red is the main color, especially the bar tables.

Coolava came to China in 2001, aiming to promote its coffee and smoothies market and develop its franchise stores. Coolava now has five stores in Beijing.

The name Coolava comes from a combination of Cool and Lava, which represent the two main products of the company. Cool stands for smoothies, a popular fruit and ice drink in the US and Lava stands for its organic coffee.

The Smoothie hasn't become a popular drink in China yet, but it's a healthy, made of 100 percent fruit juice and rich in vitamins, healthy fibers and minerals.

Coolava offers organic coffee, which promotes organic agriculture in coffee planting and making.

Where: First floor of Silk Street shopping mall

Open: 9am-10pm

Tel: 5169 9196



Photo provided by Coolava Islands

Cafe Oriental Taipan, bottomless cups and ample food

By Annie Wei

When talking about Taipan, most people know it as one of the best massage and spa places in town. It's a little pricey but they offer bottomless cups of fruit juice and ample food if you get hungry.

Last year, Taipan Massage and Spa successfully entered the restaurant and cafe business with its new outlet specializing in Macao food.

The first floor of Cafe Taipan mainly focuses on bakery items and coffee, with a nice outdoor wooden deck. The Macao restaurant is on the second floor and



Photo provided by Cafe Taipan

very spacious. In the center of the restaurant, there is a super-size TV screen, broadcasting sports events. The Cafe Taipan is popular with nearby urbanites during lunch and dinner time.

As a southern Chinese girl, I personally like Cantonese and Macao food. Last time we had a Cantonese-speaking girls dinner get-together, we decided to try Cafe Taipan.

We ordered salads, Taipan roasted goose, pork rib, lamb, curry crab, fried rice-noodle and numerous snacks. Some were terrific and some were so-so. Roast goose is a must in Cantonese or Macao dining, the one here was rich and swam in a delicious sauce, but I personally thought the goose was a bit too fat. The curry crab tasted very good.

Where: 1/F, Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-2am next day

Tel: 6585 3478

Grandma's Kitchen, most popular brunch

By Annie Wei

Back in 2004, some of my friends became very addicted to the brunches at Grandma's Kitchen or the steak and eggs at Xiushui Nan Jie every weekend.

"Brunch is very popular in the US," one of my friends said. Obviously, I am not familiar with the US, but brunch is definitely popular in Beijing's ex-pat community. Its popularity also extends to the local younger generation. Although Grandma's Kitchen has opened more chains in locales like Jianwai SOHO and Central Beijing, the one in Xiushui Nan Jie was the first one to establish its reputation.

Just as the name implies, Grandma's Kitchen offers a very warm and cozy style. It has checkered table clothes and friendly, English and Chinese speaking staff members. It provides typical American food, such as pancakes, steak sandwiches, hamburgers, french fries, cheesecakes, bottomless cups of black coffee and

a many milk shake flavors.

Most items are rich in calories and are offered in large sizes. My Chinese friend said that American food is not about taste but quantity, and Grandma's Kitchen takes that point to heart. I still haven't finished everything I ordered there.

In summer, the outside seating at Grandma's Kitchen is very popular. Many people like sitting outside, enjoying nature, the willows and the gentle breezes. In winter, my favorite seat is the one farthest back in the restaurant, close to the heating pipes, so warm and so cozy, where I can chat with one or two really good friends endlessly.

Recommended are the roasted potato and milk shakes, which are hard to find at any other place in town.

Where: Jia 11, Xiushui Nan Jie

Open: 7:30am-11:30pm

Cost: above 50 yuan per person, accepts credit cards

Tel: 6503 2893

Sequoia has good coffee and sandwiches

By Annie Wei

My first time visiting Sequoia was to conduct an interview with an American reporter who started her own organic garden in Beijing's suburban area. It was near her office, I was told.

Everyone knows that most of foreign media bureaus are located in a tall building in the Jianwai diplomatic compound, left from the end of Guanghua Lu.

I sort of knew the direction, so I walked from the Ritan Park south gate to the west. At first, the road offered no hint of a cafe, just endless embassy walls. Finally, I spotted the Sequoia on the south side of the road.

It's a lovely cafe with wooden tables and chairs, bright colors and simple decorations. It mainly offers coffee, fruit juices, tea, fresh muffins and sandwiches.

With my Chinese taste buds, I cannot really tell how others rate good coffees and good bakeries. But, according to feedback from my friends, they love Sequoia's food –



Photo provided by Sequoia

especially the coffee and sandwiches.

Now Sequoia at Guanghua Lu is famous as the most frequently visited spot by foreign media reporters. I always bump into acquaintances there, working at their laptops, chatting with some friends or having a coffee break. Local people who live or work around the area are often seen, as well, enjoying Sequoia's coffee.

Sequoia has also opened a new outlet at Sanlitun, with more space and regular wine tasting events.

Where: 44, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 8am-8pm

Tel: 6501 5503



Photo by Annie Wei

...continued from page 18

Silk Street

Subway

With more than 20,000 franchise stores all over the world, Subway is ideal for those who want something traditional after a whole day shopping at Xiushui market.

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 7:30am-10pm
Tel: 5169 8896

SPR Coffee

One of the biggest franchise coffee stores in the world, SPR Coffee offers Cappuccino, Caffe Latte, Espresso, American Coffees – as well as a lovely combination of Espresso Ice Cream, Espresso Floats, Cocoa, Viennese Caffe and Espresso Con Panna.

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 8:30am-11pm
Tel: 5169 8411

Lavazza

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 9am-10:30pm
Tel: 5169 8870

Q's Cafe

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 7:30am-10pm
Tel: 5169 9133

Coolava Island

Smoothies are not easily found in Beijing, but this one provides good coffee and smoothies.

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 9am-10pm
Tel: 5169 9196

Obriens Coffee

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 8:30am-10:30pm
Tel: 5169 9298

Ritan Park

Sequoia

It has nice muffins, sandwiches, and good coffee. Now Sequoia also holds wine tasting events.

Where: 44, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 8am-8pm
Tel: 6501 5503

Moscow

The restaurant is decorated in traditional Russian style and serve up authentic Russian food here.

Where: southwest corner of Ritan park
Open: 11am-3am next day
Cost, 100 yuan per person
Tel: 6586 3217

Schindlers Tankstelle

This dimly-lit restaurant is like a underground cellar. You can see diners chatting cheerfully every time you go to the place. It's famous for home-style German food like sausage and Erdinger.

Where: West 888, Ritan Office Building, 15, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11am-1am next day
Tel: 8562 6439

La Galerie

Restaurant & Lounge

The restaurant is in a traditional Chinese courtyard, with lovely paths and tall, old trees. Wonderful place for a pot of tea, especially during the afternoon tea time, and some delicate Cantonese snacks.

Where: West of south gate of Ritan Park, Guanghua Lu
Open: 10am-3pm, 5pm-10:30pm
Cost: 200 yuan per person
Tel: 8562 8698

Stone Boat Bar

The bar is inside a faux Qing Dynasty boat in Ritan Park. But, during summer, the activities move outside. Right now, it's a popular place for Beijing's foreign journalists, as well as NGOs, and individual music-lovers and performers.

Where: Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Southeast end of the lake
Open: 10am-11pm
Tel: 6501 9986

Sunjoy Mansion

St Regis Hotel

Superbly situated in the heart of Beijing's business, shopping and diplomatic districts, it is the hotel of choice for the world's most discerning traveler. One of Beijing's oldest hotels for those of higher rank.

Where: 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6460 6688

Peace Art Co

Yiyuan means art gallery. This one specializes in serving tea with the furnishings in Chinese traditional style. Rumor has it that the owner's family was connected with one of China's most famous artists. The *yiyuan* now is frequented by older rich Chinese who adore Chinese arts.

Where: Ding 17, Guanghua Lu
Open: 9:30am-midnight
Tel: 8562 2680

7-Eleven

Ah, yes, the famous 7-11. It has the cheapest food you can find anywhere in the area.

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6, Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 24 hours

Friday's

As one of the earliest Western restaurants entering China, it's considered a high-end restaurant for American food and many Chinese dinners.

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6, Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11:30am-midnight
Tel: 8526 3388

Grandma's Kitchen

It's one of the best choices for ex-pats who need familiar food on the weekend.

Where: Jia 11, Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 7:30am-11:30pm
Tel: 6503 2893

Steaks and Eggs

Another great spot for ex-pats who want western-style food on the weekend. The wait staff is known for its colorful characters.

Where: 5, Xiushui Nanjie, Chaoyang
Open: Mon-Fri 7:30am-10:30pm; Sat-Sun 7:30am-midnight
Tel: 5820 2670

Sapori d'Italia

Italy restaurant wine bar

It has a smaller entrance compared to the other restaurants located on the same street, but it's one of the most popular places in town for Italian visitors.

Where: 17 Xiushui Nanjie
Open: 10am-midnight
Tel: 6593 2079

Cafe Oriental Taipan

The bakery items on the first floor are 50 percent off after 8pm. The second floor restaurant has wireless Internet but not the first floor. Congee after 11pm is made in traditional style and comes at a reasonable price.

Where: Second floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6, Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11am-2am next day
Tel: 6585 3478

Starbucks

What can we say about Starbucks Coffee that hasn't already been said? If you are meeting someone in the area, it's definitely the easiest, safest and most recognizable place to rendezvous. One serious problem I encountered last year was that I had to go to another floor for the restroom and there was no wireless yet.

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6, Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 7am-10pm
Tel: 6595 4675

(By Annie Wei)



Facade of the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Photos by Phbase.com

Art and music in 'City of Brotherly Love'

By Shida Zhu

I boarded a Greyhound from Washington DC and traveled via Baltimore and the Delaware River to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's largest city and birthplace of the nation. After we dropped our luggage at a local hotel and had lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant, we headed for a tour.

Historical role

On an early Sunday afternoon in Philadelphia, the famous Independence Hall is the place to be. After a short tour, you can almost smell the air of history that hangs heavy over this riverside city. As clusters of tourists line up at the Liberty Bell Pavilion, waiting to strike the Liberty Bell, curious lovers ride in the old-fashioned, white-washed carriages for several turns about the city square. The horses, quiet and obedient, pull the carriages with a majestic gait to the crack of the driver's whip.

It appears strikingly out of place in such an industrialized society. People may be in a frenzy at the stock exchange only steps away, but at the square, Philadelphia seems a time capsule of itself.

Its central geographical location made Philadelphia the choice

meeting place for the first continental congress in 1774, setting the turbulent revolutionary course that defined its history since. The first continental meeting took place in Carpenters' Hall where the council drew up the continental association and the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, which started the Revolutionary War.

In 1775, the continental congress met in the State House and decided to organize an army under the command of George Washington in open rebellion. The continental army camped outside of the city at Valley Forge with occasional bouts of fighting at Germantown and Barren Hill on the outskirts.

Today, the same seats hewn from mahogany which seated those historical giants remain in the hall as a symbol of where development and prosperity of modern America began.

City of the arts

Philadelphia has a well-designed park system scattered throughout the city. Fairmount Park runs along the beautiful Schuylkill and Wissahickon Creek. It incorporates the Wissahickon and Cresheim valleys with the Robin Hood Dell, a venue for top summer concerts.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art, a huge Greek temple standing on the leveled top of Fairmount in the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, was founded in 1876 and is one of the largest art museums in the US. It has a commanding view of the Spring Garden with a lush carpet of trees and lawns.

The museum boasts collections which give a broad view of the development of art throughout history. It has "period" rooms of major artistic significance, and which house special collections such as the stunning Arensburg collection of 20th century paintings and many American and Philadelphia artistic works. Among its most renowned pieces are the Portrait of Dr Samuel D Gross and the McNeil collection of Presidential China. It has a special hall for sculptures by Auguste Rodin, the

French sculptor.

It is a kaleidoscope of masterful sculptures, brimming with masculine muscle power or soft female beauty. From the sculpture of Adam, you can see how his powerful, sculptured muscles vibrate with life and energy. Now on view is an exhibition of Irish silver, a collection of Irish domestic silverware from the 17th century to the period after the Act of Union in 1800 and an exhibition on the Japanese literati culture in the Edo period.

Walking the streets to Fairmount was an exhilarating experience. I stopped before a bronze statue of a young girl "Maja" sculptured by Gerhard Marcks in 1889. It shows a bathing girl working her hair into a knot before stepping out of the tub bath. The extraordinary fluency of the body lines are as impressive as they are breathtaking. The stone sculpture of an Indian woman has similar artistic power. Is she in a spirit of defiance or captivity? The athletic sculpture of a photogenic young thrower vibrates with youthfulness and vitality. The muscles seem to bulge with power, and the eyes look far and wide into the future.



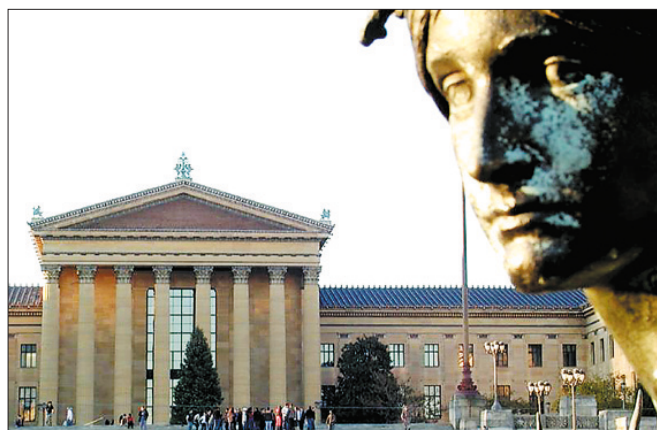
Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra

Sounds of Philly

For a special treat, attend a concert of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, part of the city's rich musical tradition. The sound of Philadelphia is deeply-rooted in the traditions of 18th century German immigrants. Its music scene boasts the Harmonic Society, the Haydn Society, the Cecela Society and the Music Fund Society. The hall established by the Academy of Music serves as the center of the city's musical activities, where the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra performs many times. A group of chamber musicians performed Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in B-flat major, and the orchestra under the baton of Charles Dutoit performed Beethoven's Overture to the Creations of Prometheus and Brahms Piano Concerto No 1 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. The chance to hear such virtuoso performances makes the trip from faraway China all the more worthwhile.

Where to stay:

Crowne Plaza, 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tel: +1-800-830 3608
Holiday Inn, 45 Industrial HWY, Essington, PA 19029
Tel: +1-610-521 2400



Journey to the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Kempinski Hotel

The Sunday Brunch

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Where: 50, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang

Open: 11:30am-3pm every Sunday

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4105 (reservations)

Cost: 288 yuan, plus 15% per person including 0.5 litre Paulaner Beer, unlimited soft drinks and mineral water.



Malta, Island heart of the Mediterranean

By Gan Tian

Colorful leaves and cool breezes make autumn the best season for touring Beijing. The island of Malta, a country in the central Mediterranean, shares the capital's cool climate, and now is the best time for a visit to the archipelago, Karl Xuereb, ambassador of Malta to China, said.

"The Mediterranean actually was in the middle of the Roman Empire, and we are in the middle of the Mediterranean, so we are in the middle of the middle," Xuereb said. Each year, tourists from all over the world triple the population of the Maltese archipelago: Malta, Gozo, Comino, Comminotto and Filfla. Tourism has become the nation's main source of income. Clear blue waters, secluded bays, sandy beaches, medieval-walled citadels and rich history dominate these islands!

La Valetta, Malta

Divine stones

"Some stones are divine," French poet Roger Caillois wrote of Gozo Island. The superb megalithic Temples of Ggantija on the island were built about 7,000 years ago.

From 4500 BC, Europeans began building massive monuments of standing stones called "megaliths." These were placed in circles or upright side by side, with other stones laid horizontally across the top. Here, the megalithic temples of Ggantija near the village of Xaghra are an outstanding example of the pre-historic monuments.

"Ggantija" means "gigantic." A legend says that the complex was built by a lady giant called Sunsuna. In her courage and wisdom, she carried the stone blocks on her head from Ta' Cenc, a faraway place. No wonder they are nicknamed "divine stones."

You could travel to Gozo by helicopter, but, more often than not, Malta's sister island is reached by boat – a better way to feel its mythical atmosphere. Once past the Blue Lagoon, you will be in Calypso. "Who knows what charms the nymph used to seduce Ulysses and keep him on her island for seven long years?" Visit for an answer.



Valletta, Malta

The Silent City

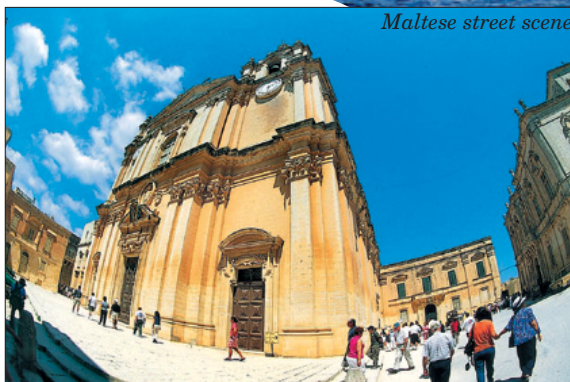
There is only one hotel, limited cafes and no nightlife in Mdina – but that's why it is so attractive. It is known as "The Silent City," probably because of its none-existent traffic. The ancient narrow streets make it impassable for most vehicles.

Though the city is generally silent, it comes alive during tourist season. Go during the off season to enjoy its more authentic peace and tranquility.

From the country's capital city, Valletta, you can catch buses 80, 81 and 84. All of them stop near Mdina.



Door in the Hagar Qim Temple on Malta
CFP Photos



Maltese street scene

Like a bar, but not a bar

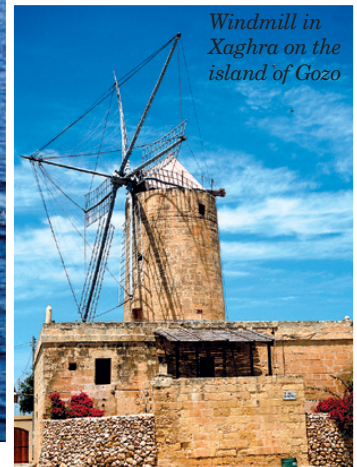
Zabbar, despite having "bar" in its name, don't assume it has anything to do with bars. It is one of the largest cities in the small country. The centuries-old city is an impressive sight in mid-September.

That's when locals meet up for the annual "festa." Enjoy great fireworks, traditional foods and spend a few days getting in touch with your inner-self. You can relax, eat, drink and be merry. Before you sink into the usual day-to-day routine for another year, take a few days to explore Zabbar.

Getting there

By air: The Maltese islands are only a few hours by air from major European cities. You can take Air Malta, its national airline, to and from most major airports in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

By sea: A regular ferry service links several Italian and Sicilian ports to Valletta, Malta's capital. Contact Grimaldi Group at +003-56-220 940/231 689.



Windmill in Xaghra on the island of Gozo

Quick shopping fun

If you have been in China for a long time, the shops in Malta take a little adjusting to. Though commercial centers and shops are usually accessible by public or private transport, they are normally open only from 9am to 1pm and 4 to 7pm. They close on Sundays and Public Holidays. For men, this is a god-send – no more waiting on girlfriends. For the ladies: act fast. If something catches your eye, buy it, because when you come back, the shop will be closed.

A once-a-week trip to the town and village markets should satisfy you if you can't find what you want in town. In Valletta, the Merchants Street market is open everyday. The biggest market is the one located at St James Ditch, just outside Valletta, and the most picturesque is the one at Marsaxlokk. Just remember, both are only open on Sunday mornings.

Bring back some Maltese weavings, pottery, blown glass or copper and brass ornaments or Xuereb will scold you! The trinkets are so fascinating and really capture the country's passion for arts and crafts. There is a craft center at Ta' Qali in Malta and another at Ta' Dbiegi in Gozo. You'll regret passing them up.

Shopping in Malta is fun: it always comes quickly and ends even swifter. Find the most suitable place and time, go there and buy.

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Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

A shopping friend's Chinglish eyes

By Chu Meng

One of my best friends, Jacqueline Lau, a Singaporean, told me on a shopping trip, "I've been living in China a while now, long enough to observe the long-term deterioration of my own native language abilities, as well as those of my fellow English speakers."

"How?" I asked curiously. "Because of Chinglish," she replied without pausing. "More specifically, what I'm talking about is a much more insidious form of linguistic deterioration. Its source is, specifically, the Chinese culture, and its target is English speakers. If you are a native speaker of English living in China, you may have already fallen victim."

Then she gave me some common examples of how the Chinese influence is weakening the native speaker's linguistic competence.

She said, "Firstly, a 'Net bar' in Chinese, is called a *wangba*. This is fine. But we generally call them 'Internet cafes' in English. The Chinese seem to think that *wangba* should be translated as 'net bar' in English, and many unwary foreigners have been fooled into following along. For us, it is usually one of the first non-standard translations to creep into the language."

"And secondly," she said. "Name card'. In the English-speaking world, business people have lots of meetings. On these occasions, businessmen and women exchange specially printed pieces of paper known as 'business cards.' In China, everyone

refers to them as 'name cards,' mainly because in Chinese, they are called *mingpian*, and 'name card' is a direct translation. It has now become a very widespread translation amongst foreigners living in China and, as a result, when doing business with the Chinese, foreigners seem to forget the term 'business card' extremely quickly."

"And one more," she continued. "Bean curd.' It is called 'tofu.' This English word comes from Chinese by way of Japan. I know all dictionaries sold in China will tell you 'tofu' is 'bean curd' in English. That may represent the two characters nicely, but 'bean curd' is more a definition than a comfortable translation. It is Chinglish, as well. And yet, some foreigners still say 'bean curd' rather than 'tofu'. Deplorable."

I think you see the pattern. The native English speaker's way of normally saying something is now being replaced by a more awkward translation using alternate English words that conforms nicely to some Chinese word. If you've been living in China and find yourself using these sloppy

translations, you might be on dangerous ground. You're going to start making a fool of yourself on trips back home. Be vigilant!

In conclusion, I really have little to say. Cultures are cultures. They indeed mix a little from each, I joked with her. Whether you want to communicate in English or in Chinese, Chinglish provides the perfect language tool. East meets West, Chinglish is the best!

Am I sarcastic or what?



CFP Photo

消防水井
Fire Protection Well

Photo by Derrick Sobodash

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

By Derrick Sobodash

It must be difficult to be a dog in Beijing.

Sure, your owner may love you more than her own son. In fact, if she's anything like this writer's neighbor, she may call you her "erzi" and reserve far more insulting words for her human who refuses to study for the college entrance exams. You may even get more expensive food than the rest of the family.

But where are you supposed to relieve yourself? Not to pick on the neighbors again, but "inside the elevator" is not the correct answer.

There is something missing in Beijing that is usually spotted on every block in a major city: fire hydrants.

Based on the Chinglish on this sign, most readers would still be left wonder-

ing where the fire fighters hook up to put out a blaze – all the city seems to have are "Fire protection wells."

It took a little questioning, but it turns out the fire hydrants are inside these wells. It's a pretty ingenious idea, since the lid will prevent hydrant caps from becoming so encrusted in and rusted by dog urine that can't open in an emergency.

It would make much more sense to label it "Fire hydrant" rather than "Fire protection well."

It's doubtful anyone would see the sign and the sealed well and say, "Well, damn, they must have removed the fire hydrant. I guess the house will just have to burn down."

Then again maybe it's just a clever trick to prevent foreign dogs from urinating on the lid.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor
Shida Zhu

1. The expressway has launched.

The expressway cannot be launched itself, so it has to be: the expressway has been launched. Similarly, you cannot say "the movie has launched" or "the movie has shown." You will have to say: "the movie is being shown at the theater." However, with some verbs it is all right to use the active form. For instance, the soccer match between France and Germany kicked off yesterday. There is no set rule. You have to rely on your memory. This is where the difficulty of linguistic study comes into play.

2. To advance to the finals being held tomorrow

The participle attributive clause, "being held", stresses an action that happens for the time being. If it is something taking place tomorrow, you will have to say: "to advance to the finals that will be held tomorrow" or "to be held tomorrow."

3. Spectator's entrance

Is it an entrance specifically set up for one person? Of course, it isn't. As the spectators are numerous, it has to be "spectators' entrance" to create the correct possessive form.

Native speaker
Joe Edwards

1. The expressway has launched.

This event I would love to witness! Launching an entire expressway! Now that would take some incredible firepower! And talk about stressing out commuters! All sarcasm aside, you cannot actually "launch" an expressway. This sentence should read, "The expressway has been launched." Likewise, it's improper grammar to say, "the movie has shown." The correct structure is, "the movie is being shown." However, rules are made to be broken. The following example is correct as well, "The motorcycle races kicked off yesterday."

2. To advance to the finals being held tomorrow

The attributive clause, "being held" denotes an event that is happening now so tagging it with the word, "tomorrow", throws a monkey wrench into the works, as we say. You're mixing tenses here which can make any English professor quite tense. You have to say, "To advance to the finals that will be held tomorrow" or "to be held tomorrow." Now you're making tense sense.

3. Spectator's entrance

In this particular example, the apostrophe before the second "s" gives us the impression that only one person is attending the game. Must be pretty lousy teams playing! Of course, the entrance is for all spectators. To denote the correct possessive form in this example and let everyone into the event, position the apostrophe after the second "s" to make it read as follows, "spectators' entrance".



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Friday, September 28

Exhibition

With You, I Will Never Feel Lonely – Chen Ke Solo Exhibition



Where: Star Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until October 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 0591, 138 1133 9622

China Contemporary Art

It's the opening exhibition of the China Visual Arts Center, an American/Chinese joint organization, dedicated to the promotion, integration and education of both the western and eastern art communities.

Where: China Visual Arts Center, 1 Artistic Area,

Hegezhuang Village, Cuigezhuang Town, Chanyang
When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until November 7

Admission: Free

Tel: 137 0107 8774, 135 2155 9157

Beautiful New World – Contemporary Visual Culture from Japan



Where: Long March Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until October 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 7107



Saturday, September 29

Exhibition

Oil Paintings by Hu Ming



Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until October 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3506

Cai Bugu Solo Exhibition



Where: The First Sound Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 9:30am-6:30pm, until October 19

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 2501

Trading Story With Leaves – Rob Slychuk Solo Exhibition

Rob began traveling on his own at age 17, starting in Central America and later moving on to Asia. This exposure to the

world and its dynamic cultures greatly impacted the story-telling style of his paintings, giving him a very personal outlook on the world that shows through in his artwork.

Where: The Fifth Element Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until October 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 1338



Outdoor 6 Days Dunhuang and Xinjiang Tour

The six-day trip along part of the Silk Road starts from Dunhuang and continues through Turpan and Urumqi to Kashgar and Karakuri Lake and the Snow Mountains near the border of Pakistan.

When: Take the morning flight to Dunhuang on September 30 and fly back to Beijing from Urumqi on October 4.

Cost: 11,600 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Chinese Culture Club)

Sunday, September 30

Exhibition

Marilyn Monroe and America in the 1960s – The Photography of Lawrence Schiller



The photo exhibition is an unequalled historical perspective of the 1960s in America, and includes images of the American icon Marilyn Monroe.

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until October 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784

Viewing Emptiness – Shi Zhongying Solo Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 10am-5pm, until October 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

Future Castles



The exhibition features oil paintings by Wang Fei, Zhang Zhen, He Zubin, Shen Jingdong, Xiao Fang-kai, Li Wenfeng, Yuan Xin and Guo Binbin.

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until October 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

Outdoor

7 Days Yunnan: Dali, Lijiang & Shangri-La

Tucked away in the southwestern corner of China, Yunnan is one of the most colorful and beautiful spots in the country. Here you'll find the most biologically diverse area in the temperate world. The landscape is extremely varied – from the lush fertile plains to the rugged Tibetan highlands.

When: Leave Beijing for Kunming by plane on September afternoon and fly back to Beijing on October 6.

Cost: 10,600 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in October

Dance

Light

Who: National Ballet of China
Where: Tianqiao Theater, 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen
When: 7:30pm, October 1-4
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Concert

Love of Angel – Ali Wood Romantic Piano Concert

Who: Ali Wood
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 1
Admission: 180-880 yuan

Bowfire's Virtuoso Violin Music

Who: Canada-based Bowfire demonstrates what the violin and fiddle can do in the hands of masters. Bowfire encompasses styles as diverse as classical, jazz, country, rock, old-time, Texas-style, bluegrass, gypsy, eclectic, Celtic and electric.

Where: Ethnic Culture Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Phantom of the Opera

Who: China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 3
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg

Who: Edo de Waart and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 4

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Russian Romances by Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky

Who: Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 17
Admission: 100-880 yuan

The Nigel Kennedy Quintet – Blue Note Sessions

Who: Nigel Kennedy
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 18
Admission: 180-980 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: Gil Shaham, Shuilan and Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 23
Admission: 60-680 yuan

The 10th Beijing Music Festival Closing Gala Concert

Who: Lang Lang (Piano), Christoph Eschenbach (Conductor) and Orchestre de Paris
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 26
Admission: 180-980 yuan

Opera

China Premiere of Poet Li Bai Opera

Who: Composed by Guo Wenjing
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 9
Admission: 100-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)